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East Asia

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East Asia

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Japan

Miyashita on Continuing U.S. Military Alliance

OW3107114092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1130 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 31 KYODO—Defense Agency Director General Sohei Miyashita said Friday that a debate may emerge over development of a nuclear arsenal for defense of Japan unless it maintains military alliance with the United States.

"It is essential for Japan to keep the alliance," said Miyashita as he addressed about 70 reporters at the National Japan Press Club.

The Defense Agency chief also said the U.S. should also keep up its commitment in Asia or Japan will need to spend more on defense, a move that other Asian nations would not want to see.

"U.S. presence in Asia will also block Japan from reemerging a major militarist state," he said.

Miyashita also told reporters that Japan will send Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to Cambodia by the end of October to join the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

"UNTAC Chief Yasushi Akashi wants Japan to send SDF personnel to the UNTAC by the middle of October. By and large, we expect (this to happen) in October."

Miyashita said Japan will make an international contribution by taking part in the UN peacekeeping missions since the SDF's participation is a national interest for the country.

Miyashita said, "SDF personnel will be able to make international exchanges with their counterparts from other countries in UN peacekeeping operations."

The Defense Agency chief suggested one reason the former imperial army triggered wars before 1945 is that it was isolated from the world and had little opportunity for exchanges with foreign armed forces.

On the setting up of UN peacekeeping divisions independent from other corps in the SDF, Miyashita said, "We do not deny the future creation of such corps in the SDF. But we do not consider it now."

Nordic countries have UN peacekeeping corps independent of other divisions in their military forces as the UN peacekeeping operations are quite different from defense operations in military tactic and functions.

He touched on Japan's annual defense spending, saying the nation will slash purchases of military "frontline" equipment in the 1991-1995 mid-term defense program, which appropriates 22.75 trillion yen.

Miyashita said the Defense Agency will attach importance to improving working conditions for SDF personnel, however, noting that the agency will find it increasingly more difficult to recruit SDF members.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Arrives in Tokyo

OW0308070292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0631 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 3 KYODO—Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Poltoranin arrived in Tokyo Monday afternoon to help prepare for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan in September.

Poltoranin will have talks with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Tuesday and meet with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Wednesday.

At the request of Russian officials, the deputy premier is to visit Okinawa, the Japan's southernmost prefecture, on Thursday. He is scheduled to fly home Saturday.

Okinawa Visit Welcomed by Tokyo

OW0308120292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1153 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 3 KYODO—The Japanese Government welcomes Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Poltoranin's plan to visit Okinawa prefecture while staying in Japan, a top Foreign Ministry official said Monday.

Japan hopes that Poltoranin will witness the outcome of the 1976 return of Okinawa from the United States to Japan, said the official who spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity.

The official said Poltoranin will have a chance to confirm the favorable effects of the reversion on the people of Okinawa, the Japanese people as a whole, and on the Japan-U.S. relationship.

The official was referring to a territorial dispute over four Russian-held islands.

Poltoranin, who arrived in Tokyo on Monday for a six-day visit to Japan, is scheduled to visit Okinawa on Thursday and Friday, becoming the first senior official ever from the former Soviet Union and Russia to visit there after World War II.

The ministry official said the Russian deputy prime minister is interested in Okinawa's social problems stemming from foreign occupation.

Business Society Planned With Sakhalin

OW2907120392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1132 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 29 KYODO—Japanese businesses will promote economic and industrial cooperation with the Russian Far East island of Sakhalin through a planned bilateral society, industry sources said Wednesday.

Promoters of the idea, who met Wednesday in Tokyo, picked Seiki Tozaki, an adviser at C. Itoh and Co., as their representative.

The society, called the Japan-Sakhalin Society Inc., will be formally established within the year with participation by about 100 companies, while a similar body will be formed by the Russian side, the sources said.

Besides economic cooperation, it is aimed at deepening cultural ties between the neighboring areas through dispatches of Japanese-language teachers to Sakhalin and other exchanges, they said.

Senior Defense Official To Visit Cambodia

OW0308090392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0708 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 3 KYODO—Senior defense official Shigeru Hatakeyama will go to Cambodia as early as Tuesday to arrange a planned deployment of Japanese peacekeeping troops to the war-torn country, government sources said Monday.

The director general of the Defense Agency's Defense Policy Bureau will meet Yasushi Akashi, head of the United Nations mission in Cambodia, and other officials to make final preparations for the deployment, they said.

Under a recently enacted law authorizing Japan to send Self-Defense Forces personnel on U.N. peacekeeping missions, Tokyo plans to send troops to help rebuild bridges and roads in Cambodia.

The Defense Agency will send some 20 experts to Cambodia by mid-August to conduct working-level preparations for the Japanese troop deployment, the sources said.

Foundation for Former 'Comfort Women' Considered

OW0208042992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0245 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 2 KYODO—The Japanese Government is considering establishing a foundation in South Korea to assist former "comfort women" forced to serve in frontline brothels for Japanese soldiers during World War II, a MAINICHI SHIMBUN report said Sunday quoting government sources.

Under the scheme, which would be offered in lieu of compensation, the government would also consider entrusting the South Korean Government with the operation of the foundation to be fully financed by Japan, the report said.

The government intends to finalize details of the foundation plan within this year after holding consultations with the South Korean Government, the national daily said.

The government hopes to include the foundation plan in a budget for next fiscal year, and will present the proposal to the South Korean Government as soon as possible, the report said.

So far, the Japanese Government has insisted that the compensation issue with South Korea wes settled in a 1965 treaty under which Seoul waived claims to war reparations.

The government has also for more than 40 years maintained that the women were recruited into frontline brothels by private operators.

But last January, after the former Imperial Army's apparent involvement in recruiting frontline prostitutes was disclosed, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato pledged that Tokyo would consider some measures to redress the suffering of former "comfort women," the MAINICHI said.

Last week as the South Korean Government unveiled an interim report on its investigation into the issue, Seoul reiterated its demand that Tokyo offer compensation.

In response, Kato pledged again to consider some measures to redress the issue.

The government believes conditions are now ripe for opening talks on the question between Japan and South Korea, the MAINICHI said.

Historians say as many as 200,000 women and girls, mostly from Korea, were forced to be "comfort women" for Japanese Imperial Army soldiers.

'Candidates' for Imperial Trip to China Viewed

OW0208083992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0815 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 2 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is tipped to head the entourage accompanying Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko on their visit to China, which is expected to be in October, government sources said Sunday.

Another former prime minister, Noboru Takeshita, also is one of the candidates for the post of chief attendant for the imperial visit, said the sources in the government and ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Emperor Akihito, 58, appears to have a feeling of intimacy with Kaifu, 61, since the two are of similar age, one government source said.

One influential LDP politician, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa or Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe should accompany the emperor. If either man cannot go, Kaifu would be the best choice, he said.

It would be difficult, however, to appoint the incumbent prime minister to be the chief attendant as it is might spur criticism that the emperor is being used for political purposes, the sources said.

The government has not yet officially announced the imperial visit to China, chiefly because of lingering opposition to the visit within the LDP.

The Japanese mass media, however, report that the government soon will make an announcement about the visit.

In a 1971 visit to Europe by Emperor Hirohito, posthumously called Emperor Showa, then Foreign Minister Takeo Fukuda, who later became prime minister, served as the chief attendant.

Fukuda was chief attendant again for Emperor Hirohito's 1975 visit to the United States. At that time Fukuda was the deputy prime minister and also the Economic Planning Agency director general.

For Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko's visit to Southeast Asia last year, former Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari was the chief attendant, in place of then Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, who was busy with diplomatic duties.

China has repeatedly invited the emperor and empress to visit Beijing this fall to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the restoration of diplomatic ties between Japan and China.

Japan has been delaying its answer to China's invitation since early this year.

The sources said the government is expected to name the chief attendant in the middle of September, separately from the official announcement of the imperial visit.

Sanyo To Establish Joint Venture in China

OW0303090892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0722 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 3 KYODO—Sanyo Electric Co. has agreed with Dalian Refrigeration Works Co., a Chinese air-conditioning equipment maker, and Nissho Iwai Corp., a Japanese trading house, to establish a joint venture to manufacture absorption-type air conditioners, Sanyo officials said Monday.

The new firm, called Dalian Sanyo Refrigeration Co., will be set up in the Dalian economic and technical development zone in Liaoning.

Sanyo will hold 55 percent of total equity shares of the new 1.4 billion yen company, Dalian Refrigeration Works 40 percent and Nissho Iwai 5 percent, the officials said.

An absorption-type air conditioner is a CFC-free large-scale air-conditioning unit for use in buildings, factories, and regional heating and cooling systems.

The unit price will be around 14 million yen.

The new company will start manufacturing in June 1993, with the aim of posting 140 million yen in sales in the initial year and 3.5 billion yen in the fifth year, the officials said.

Doyukai Head Urges Rethink of Business Style

OW3007123192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1137 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 30 KYODO—Leading Japanese business official Masaru Hayami urged executives Thursday to review their traditional business style, which he said is often out of harmony with those in other countries.

Hayami, head of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), also told participants in the association's annual summer seminar that financial institutions need to boost their efforts to secure a stable financial market.

His comments came as a growing number of Japanese companies say they must harmonize their business systems with those overseas, partly in reaction to foreign criticism of "keiretsu" corporate groupings and other Japanese business customs.

In fact, "Kyosei," or symbiosis, with the international community has become a favorite buzzword in Japanese business circles.

Hayami's remarks on management of financial institutions apparently reflected speculation that the bank of Japan's .5 percentage point cut in its official discount rate Monday was intended to salvage banks battered by the collapse of the "bubble" economy.

"Financial institutions should push ahead with their streamlining efforts," he said. "Their self-effort is the key to a stable financial market."

Relaxation of BIS Capital Standards Considered

OW0108052692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0048 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 1 KYODO—The Finance Ministry is studying relaxing regulations so banks can change the way they estimate unrealized gains on securities holdings to help them meet international capital adequacy standards, the NIKKAN KOGYO SHIMBUN reported Saturday.

The major industrial newspaper said the new methods would permit Japanese banks to calculate their unrealized gains on securities holdings on a basis of weighted average prices over the past three to five years instead of their market prices at the final day of the financial year.

Sharp declines in Tokyo stock prices have eroded the capital strength of all Japanese banks by trimming their latent profit from stockholdings.

According to industry sources, Japan's 11 commercial banks saw their combined unrealized gains on stockholdings plunge to 10.72 trillion yen at the end of March 1992 from 33.6 trillion yen two years ago. During the two-year period, the benchmark 225-issue Nikkei stock index plunged to 19,300 from 28,000.

Most Japanese commercial banks are likely to fail to meet the minimum 8 percent capital-to-assets ratio required by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) because the Nikkei index is hovering around 15,000, they said.

Based on the new methods, all Japanese commercial banks can easily meet the capital adequacy standards, since the weighted stock prices average nearly 30,000, they said.

Under the BIS accord, international banks can count 45 percent of their unrealized gains as tier two, or noncore capital, but methods of calculating the value of the gains depend on each country's regulations.

Banks Consider Cutting Long-Term Prime Rate

OW0108070892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0621 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 1 KYODO—Banks may move to cut their long-term prime lending rates starting September 1 in the wake of a 0.5 point cut in the official discount rate to 3.25 percent per annum July 27 and lower short-term prime rates, banking sources say.

As the reason, the sources noted the decline in yields on five-year bank debentures with fixed interest rates issued by long-term credit banks.

The yield on the new issue of the Industrial Bank of Japan's bank debenture with a coupon rate of 5.2 percent eased to 4.85 percent July 31, a drop which analysts say means that the coupon rate could be lowered by 0.2-0.3 percentage point.

The yield on the debenture issued by the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan also came down to the 4 percent level at the end of last month.

Currently, slight yield differences are appearing among such issues from each of Japan's three long-term credit banks but a Nippon Credit Bank official said, "The gap is a temporary phenomenon and (the three) banks will maintain the practice of setting the same issuing conditions for the debentures."

Bond prices are expected to move [as received] firm for the time being and if current yield levels on the bank debentures continue until late August, there is a chance that the long-term prime rate will be brought down.

The long-term prime rate is usually set 0.9 percentage point higher than the coupon rate of of the five-year bank debentures. The rate currently stands at 6.1 percent per annum.

Housing loans rates, which are reviewed twice a year in March and September, could be lowered as well if the long-term prime lending rate comes down to the 5.8 or 5.9 percent level, the sources said.

Official 'Not Worried' Over Stocks' Decline

OW0308113292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1001 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 3 KYODO—A top Finance Ministry official said Monday he is not worried over a renewed stock market downfall.

The official, who spoke on condition that he not be identified, said he expects an upturn by the end of the week.

He said the market appears to have adopted a wait-and-see mood Monday after two days of rises last week.

"The stock market tends to see a decline on Mondays," he noted.

The market is also affected by "summer lethargy," said the official, referring to the extremely thin trading volume on the day.

The benchmark Nikkei Average fell some 200 points Monday following the rally in the last weekend, with trading volume at 130 million shares.

The official also said it is increasingly clear that tax revenues in the current fiscal year, which began April 1, are down from the previous year

"It seems we will have to brace for a tough time," he said.

The MOF announced earlier in the day that the government's tax revenues for fiscal 1992 amounted to 422 billion yen at the end of June, down 7.5 percent from the same period the previous year.

But the official denied the ministry is already considering a downward revision of the tax revenue projection.

He also said that the MOF has not decided yet on whether the 1.5 trillion yen budget surplus of fiscal 1991 will be used to finance the prospective supplementary budget.

The law requires half of a budget surplus to be used for redemption of government bonds.

But the government tapped into the surplus in fiscal 1990 to finance fiscal 1991's supplementary budget after passing legislation to do such.

The government is expected to compile a supplementary budget to the tune of some 6 to 7 trillion yen in September to boost the sluggish economy.

Tests on New Superconductor Element Succeed

OW3107115392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1142 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 31 KYODO—Hitachi Ltd. said Friday it has successfully tested a new functional element comprised of superconductors and semiconductors that could be a key feature of next-generation computers.

The element's function is similar to that of an existing circuit composed of tens to several hundred switching elements, according to the company's senior researchers.

A combination of several improved versions of the new functional element could perform the complicated calculations done by current neurocomputers or the sophisticated image processing of supercomputers, they said.

Hitachi said the company will work to develop a functional electronic device utilizing superconductivity that would constitute the core of an advanced data-processing system for the 21st century.

The company's findings will be reported at the Fourth International Symposium on Foundations of Quantum Mechanics, due to get under way on August 23 at Hitachi's Central Research Laboratories in the western suburbs of Tokyo.

Researchers said the new functional element consists of a pointed electrode made of a niobium superconductor. It also contains a superconducting electrode (also made of a niobium superconductor) and a polycrystal silicon gate electrode located between the two.

All the electrodes are installed on a single-crystal silicon substrate, the researchers said.

The element is based on what is known as the "Andreyev reflection," in which electron waves emitted from a pointed electrode reflect on the interface (boundary) between the superconductor and semiconductor.

The phenomenon is similar to the way light is reflected on a concave mirror, with the reflected electron waves coming back to the pointed electrode through the same channels.

Agency To Introduce International Nuclear Scale

OW3107111992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1047 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 31 KYODO—The Agency of Natural Resources and Energy said Friday it will begin using an international scale, rather than a stricter Japanese scale, to measure nuclear accidents, beginning Saturday.

The international scale in question is the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) set by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), agency officials said.

The Science and Technology Agency, which has nuclear reactors for research, has also decided to adopt the INES, the officials said.

The INES, designed to assess accidents at nuclear power stations worldwide by common measures, was introduced in April, they said.

The Japanese scale assesses the dangerousness of nuclear reactor accidents by dividing them into nine ranks, they said.

The INES uses eight levels to measure the dangerousness, which means the scale is less precise than Japan's, they said.

Japan will effectively use nine levels as it is used to, by dividing the INES's "level zero" further into two levels, "level zero plus" and "level zero minus," they said.

Under the INES, however, levels in 89 cases of past nuclear accidents in Japan will be lowered by one or two ranks, they said.

Currently, more than 30 nations, including European nations, India, and South Korea, have decided to use the INES, according to the agency.

However, the United States, which owns more reactors than any other nation in the world, has yet to decide on adopting the INES, the officials said.

Biotech-Based Environmental Protection Eyed

OW0208060792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0522 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 2 KYODO—The government will launch a long-term program in 1993 to protect the global environment by making use of biotechnology, according to Trade Ministry officials.

The global Bio-21 program, worked out by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), will implement Agenda 21, an action program for environmental protection toward the 21st century adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June.

MITI will seek 20 billion to 30 billion yen in the fiscal 1993 budget for the biotechnology-based program, the officials said. The next fiscal year starts in April.

The program includes a plan to preserve biological variety, a biotechnology environmental protection program, and a program to use biotechnology to reforest deserts.

The biological variety preservation plan calls for creating an international gene resources research institute in Japan, the MITI officials said.

The institute will gather microbes and plants from all over the world to study how to use them to protect the environment.

The biotechnology environmental protection program is aimed at creating plants which are capable of absorbing carbon dioxide, a main cause of global warming, and microbes which can dissolve spilled oil and other contaminants, they said.

The institute will use gene-splicing to produce plants that can withstand salt water so they can be planted in desert areas, the officials said.

North Korea

Spokesman on Japan's 'Plutonium Transport'

SK0208132192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1216 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry today answered the questions posed by a Korean Central News Agency [KCNA] reporter in connection with a Japanese attempt to transport home a large amount of plutonium from Britain and France:

According to a report, Japan is planning to transport the enormous amount of plutonium of one tonne from Britain and France to Japan, a distance of 26,000 km by sea this fall. Many countries of the world are now expressing deep concern and protesting Japan's plan to transport by sea one tonne of plutonium, an amount capable of producing some 120 atomic bombs.

No one can be certain of the Japanese ship's security as it makes a long sea voyage carrying a large amount of plutonium. According to an assertion by a U.S. nuclear control research institute in Washington, the plutonium storage house in the Japanese ship cannot stand a collision or fire. If the ship strikes a rock, the plutonium is likely to leak. Japan's dangerous act of attempting a plutonium transport by sea can become a great disaster to many countries of the world—our country, which shares a sea with Japan, and neighboring Asian countries.

Despite the fact that Japan produces a large amount of plutonium in Japan, it is attempting to bring and stockpile an enormous amount of plutonium from Europe in an adventurous way. This can hardly be regarded as a nuclear plan for peaceful purposes only. We cannot but think that this is clearly a part of the Japanese plan to equip itself with nuclear arms and to become a military power.

It is no secret that the Japanese nuclear armament [haek mujanghwa] is at a very dangerous stage. Japan should not rave about someone's suspected nuclear development which is nonexistent, but should instead discard its insidious scheme for its nuclear armament as soon as possible.

We think that the people of all Asian countries and the world should make every effort to stop Japan's adventurous plan to transport a large amount of plutonium by sea. We also think that they should stop Japan's excessive stockpile of plutonium.

Envoy to Austria Comments on IAEA Inspection

SK0108060192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0420 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 1 (KCNA)—We are interested in strengthening the inspection system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and will do all we can to this end, said Korean Ambassador to Austria Pak Si-ung at a recent press conference in Vienna, referring to the two rounds of successful irregular nuclear inspection by the IAEA.

He said the IAEA's inspection system is the only internationally recognized one for nuclear non-proliferation.

He expressed regret at the fact that some Western politicians at international meetings voiced apprehensions for the DPRK's "nuclear development program" and let out words casting a shadow over the role of the inspection system of the IAEA, contending that "an effective mutual inspection system should be put into practice" in Korea.

Noting that the IAEA's inspection system is one that applies to all the member nations under the international treaty, he stressed once again that the DPRK would thoroughly fulfil its obligations under the safeguards accord in the future, too, and actively cooperate with the IAEA in it.

More on IAEA Inspection

SK0308101592 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] In connection with the nuclear inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], Pak Si-ung, our country's ambassador to Austria, held a news conference at the International Press Center in Vienna on 23 July. Present at the news conference were reporters from Austria Press-Agentur [APA] and the editor in chief of the DIPLOMATISCHER PRESSEDIENST, an Austrian diplomats' magazine.

Our ambassador briefed the news conference. He said: Since we effectuated the safeguards agreement signed with the IAEA according to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, we have been sincerely fulfilling the duties specified in the agreement. He continued: Based on the initial reports of the nuclear materials inventory and of the list of nuclear facilities which we submitted, the IAEA has already conducted two rounds of irregular nuclear inspection. Our side actively cooperated with the IAEA's irregular inspection team so that it could smoothly carry out its duties. We have already made public the peaceful character of our nuclear power program on many occasions. We have also promised to show all sites requested by the IAEA without adhering to the facilities list already submitted to the IAEA in an effort to verify the veracity and openness of the Republic's nuclear activity. I am confident that the peaceful character of our nuclear activity will be verified through the IAEA's inspection.

Saying that the IAEA's inspection system is the only inspection system internationally recognized for the purpose of nuclear nonproliferation, our ambassador noted: We are interested in strengthening the IAEA's inspection system and will do everything we can to this end. To our regret, however, some Western politicians are talking and casting a shadow over the role of the IAEA's inspection system. At international meetings, they have expressed concern over our nuclear development program and clamored that an effective mutual inspection system should be realized in Korea. In other words, they maintain that because the IAEA's inspection system is not effective, a more effective mutual inspection system should be adopted. We think that such a claim of theirs means that they doubt the IAEA's inspection system and will perform only a harmful function in strengthening the nuclear inspection system. These remarks are an act of throwing a wet blanket over our efforts to sincerely accept the IAEA's nuclear inspection.

Saying that the IAEA's inspection is the verification system applied to all member states under the international treaty, the ambassador continued: It is clear that this verification system cannot be damaged or replaced by any kind of mutual inspection. We stress again that we will thoroughly fulfill our duties under the safeguards agreement in the future, too, and that we will actively cooperate with the IAEA for this end.

In the news conference, the ambassador answered reporters' questions.

South Scored for 'Nuclear Suspicion'

SK0208011692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0446 GMT 1 Aug 92

["Mean 'Nuclear' Outcries Full of Lies"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 1 (KCNA)—When the results of irregular nuclear inspection of the DPRK by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were published, the South Korean authorities let their "ambassador for atomic energy cooperation" make a show of himself at a meeting of the Board of Governors, contending in a far-fetched manner that the nuclear facilities of the North "are entirely for the production of nuclear weapons." And they set in motion such subsidized media as "CHOSON ILBO," "SEOUL SINMUN" and "HANGUK ILBO" to publish distorted and exaggerated reports quite contrary to facts about the inspection.

Commenting on this, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says:

In the dastardly clamor over "nuclear suspicion" which the South Korean authorities are raising through the paid media, they seek to reverse at any cost the results of the inspection by the IAEA which has proved the innocence and validity of the North's nuclear policy and ripped away the curtain to reveal the falsity of their nuclear ado. They intend to play down the results of the inspection of the North and conceal the falseness of their outcries over "nuclear suspicion."

The tricky row of "nuclear suspicion" against the North was invented by the United States which hates the implementation of the historic North-South agreement and joint declaration on denuclearisation and raised by the South Korean authorities according to its script. It is well known a fact that when the agreement and declaration were made public, the United States complained that it was "a hasty act" and shouted at the South Korean authorities to "shelve" them. This is why the South Korean authorities have deliberately delayed and avoided their implementation from the moment they signed them.

Facts vividly show that the hysteric outcries of the South Korean authorities over "nuclear suspicion" are a sheer humbug and they are swindlers who stoop to any infamy in their bid to attain their sinister purpose.

Daily Says U.S. Must Change Nuclear Policy

SK0108091492 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0027 GMT 29 Jul 92

[NODONG SINMUN 29 July commentary: "True Nature of Nuclear Fanatics Is Revealed Again"]

[Text] In a recent interview with a U.S. paper, RisCassi, commander of U.S. forces in South Korea, said that regardless of whether the North possesses nuclear weapons or not, South Korea will continue to be protected by the U.S. nuclear umbrella in accordance with the mutual defense treaty.

The remarks and acts of the commander of the aggressor forces, who is executing (?in) the field the policy of occupying South Korea and the policy of aggression, expose the U.S. purpose for waging a commotion against us on nuclear development.

As the whole world knows, we clarified on many occasions that we have no nuclear weapons, and we have no intention of producing them. There is no need to do so.

We do not intend to cause a nuclear confrontation with other countries. Can one really imagine that we, who consistently called for the peaceful reunification of the nation, are developing nuclear weapons which may massacre and exterminate our fellow countrymen and reduce the nation to a wasteland?

The fact that we are using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only and that we are making all sincere efforts for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula was clearly proven in the course of nonregular inspections conducted on two occasions by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

More than 1,000 nuclear weapons are deployed in South Korea. Secret storage houses of nuclear weapons were constructed in many places and nuclear war exercises have been ceaselessly staged there. This is why the nuclear issue has become the order of the day on the Korean peninsula.

Even after the United States announced that it withdrew nuclear weapons from South Korea, it instructed the South Korean authorities to desperately oppose the comprehensive inspection of U.S. nuclear bases and nuclear weapons.

The people of the world want to hear directly from the commander of the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces in

South Korea, who has the rank of supreme commander of the puppet army, as to why the United States, which announced that it pulled out nuclear weapons from South Korea, is so afraid of accepting nuclear inspection.

However, in a recent meeting with reporters, RisCassi presented a hypothesis that even if the North's nuclear development is successful, some measures will be worked out and etc., without uttering a word about nuclear weapons in South Korea.

This again clearly shows how shamelessly the U.S. imperialists are maneuvering to justify their forcible occupation of South Korea and nuclear war policy.

It is the invariable U.S. ambition to reduce South Korea into a nuclear base through occupation, to conquer all of Korea with South Korea as a stepping stone and to realize its ambition for global domination. The United States cried out over the fictitious southward invasion in a bid to maintain its military occupation of South Korea. However, the situation on the Korean peninsula is developing in quite an opposite direction from its scheme.

Since withdrawal of U.S. forces from South Korea has become the order of the day in connection with the implementation of the North-South agreement and joint denuclearization declaration, the United States has more noisily waged a commotion on the nuclear threat from the North. However, the true nature of this false commotion designed to slander and smear us has been completely exposed. The time has come to end such a commotion.

While stubbornly adhering to the commotion concerning nuclear development, the United States is attempting to seek another pretext for its military presence in South Korea in a bid to prepare a situation of helplessness to justify such a commotion.

RisCassi recently said that regardless whether North Korea possesses nuclear weapons or not, the United States will offer a nuclear umbrella to South Korea in accordance with the treaty. His remarks show that the U.S. commotion was kicked off not due to the actual existence of the North's nuclear issue, but was designed to put a brake on the implementation of the historic documents of North-South agreement. It was to provide a pretext for the U.S. occupation of South Korea.

Protecting South Korea with a nuclear umbrella can also mean a nuclear attack against us. While raving about nuclear umbrella protection, the United States, having reduced South Korea into the largest nuclear forward base in the Far East, staged Team Spirit military exercises—which is playing with fire and is a preliminary nuclear war and test nuclear war against us—for more than 16 years. The world knows that the United States has openly adhered to the policy of nuclear intimidation [haek konggal].

On the Korean peninsula where a joint denuclearization declaration was implemented, the United States again waged nuclear intimidation against us, a non-nuclear state. This is indeed alarming.

The United States, having worked out a war script for nuclear war in Korea, declared that it will resume next year the Team Spirit joint military exercise which is designed to launch a surprise attack on our Republic. Furthermore, the United States is going to stage the Focus Lens war exercise—a second Team Spirit—next month.

It is beyond doubt that the U.S. imperialists, who became extremely arrogant by the Persian Gulf war, are unhesitatingly attempting to make our people nuclear war victims.

In spite of the joint denuclearization declaration being adopted and effectuated, today our people have not been able to evade the danger of nuclear war. This is also attributed to the criminal acts of the nation-selling flunkeyists.

The South Korean authorities, instead of calling for withdrawal of U.S. forces in compliance with the spirit of the agreement, are begging for the permanent presence of the aggressor forces, and instead of trying to implement the joint denuclearization declaration, they are building obstacles to the discussion of problems. They have revealed their intention of living under the U.S. nuclear umbrella.

The anachronistic occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialists and their nuclear war maneuvers absolutely will not be tolerated.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities advance along the road of seeking a nuclear war by running counter to the desire of the nation and to the trend of the times, they cannot avoid denunciation and rejection by the people at home and abroad.

Foreign Minister Meets With Iranian Counterpart

SK0208150492 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Talks between Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and foreign minister of our country, and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian foreign minister, were held in Tehran on 1 August.

Present at the talks were our foreign minister and his entourage and the charge d'affaires ad interim. The Iranian ambassador to our country, director-generals of the Foreign Ministry of Iran, and the functionaries of the relevant sectors represented Iran.

At the talks, views were exchanged on international issues of mutual concern, such as developing relations between Korea and Iran and the 10th summit meeting of nonaligned countries. The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere. Meanwhile, the Iranian foreign minister hosted a luncheon for the foreign minister of our country.

Daily on Korean War Cease-Fire Anniversary

SK3107145092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0000 GMT 27 Jul 92

[NODONG SINMUN 27 July editorial: "Let Us Ease Tension and Establish Durable Peace on the Korean Peninsula"]

[Text] Our people mark the 39th anniversary of the historic victory of the great Fatherland Liberation War today. On this anniversary, we look back with deep emotion upon the immortal heroic feats of our people and the People's Army during the fierce war when the rivers and lands of the fatherland were in flames. In addition, our people look back at the day when cannons were fired to mark the victory of the war.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The three-year-long Fatherland Liberation War against the foreign imperialists' armed aggression was a hard struggle.

Millions of troops of aggression were mobilized, and enormous ultramodern combat technology and equipment were used along a small frontline during the Korean war, which the U.S. imperialists brought upon us. Unprecedented in the history of war, all of the most atrocious war methods and means were mobilized. Thus the Korean war was the largest and the most fierce war after World War II.

The war was not only a fierce fight to decide the fate of the fatherland, but also brought the most arduous tribulations to our infant republic and its people. However, under the wise leadership of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who is the great military strategist and ever-victorious iron-willed commander, our people and the People's Army soldiers unanimously rose up to the just fight in order to defend our party and people's regime, which had liberated themselves from exploitation and suppression and had provided them with a free and happy new life. They fought desperately, gloriously overcame the tribulations of war, and won the historic victory.

The victory our people won in the Fatherland Liberation War was the valuable culmination of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's idea for military self-defense, original strategy and tactics, chuche-oriented tactics, and extraordinary tactics for leading the army.

By winning an historic victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, our people demonstrated not only the unfathomable vitality of our republic and the people's democratic system, but also their might as the masters of the country. In addition, our people clearly proved that the decisive factor in victory lies not in superior weapons and technology but in the invincible might of the popular masses who realized the justness of their cause and firmly rallied around the party and the leader.

By winning a great victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, our people and the People's Army not only reliably defended the national independence and the revolutionary achievements, but also safeguarded the peace of Asia and the rest of the world.

During the arduous days of the war, the Chinese people sent the Chinese People's Volunteers and shed blood to help our people. The peace-loving people of the world enthusiastically supported and encouraged our people's just cause. Our people thank them for their support and encouragement and will never forget it.

Since the gunfire of the war ended in Korea approximately 40 years ago, those years have been the history of great changes and creation because our people, who have firmly rallied around the party and the leader, have brilliantly established the independent, self-reliant, and self-defensive powerful socialist state based on the chuche idea, even though everything was burned to ashes and destroyed. In addition, these 40 years have seen a nationwide struggle to turn the cease-fire into durable peace and to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

For 40 years, our party and government have put forward the most reasonable and realistic proposals and policies and have made all sincere efforts to realize them in order to improve the relations between the DPRK and the United States and between the North and the South, which are standing in confrontation, and to achieve peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

The South Korean people have also steadily struggled for peace and reunification of the country. However, the danger of a war still exists in our country, and the tragedy of national division remains. This is entirely attributable to the United States' unchanging policy toward Korea and to the South Korean authorities' splittist policy against peace and reunification.

The United States should take a lesson from its defeat in the Korean war. It should have withdrawn its armed forces from South Korea long ago according to the demand of our people and the world people. The United States should have taken its hands off Korea.

However, even before the ink of its signature on the Armistice Agreement dries, the United State concluded the Mutual Defense Treaty with South Korea and legalized the U.S. Forces' permanent presence in South Korea. Worse still, while implementing a policy of intervention in and domination over South Korea, it has prevented the independent and peaceful reunification of our country.

Since the gunfire stopped in Korea, the situation at home and abroad has changed greatly. In addition, the appearance of the world has changed greatly.

The East-West confrontation structure has collapsed and the policy resorting to force has come to a breaking point. More and more countries and nations are advancing along the road of pioneering their destiny independently.

It is mankind's common task of the present era to more vigorously push this flow of history and build a free and peaceful new world. The people who have emerged in the historical arena as masters of the world and as masters of their destiny call for independence, not subjugation; peace, not war; and friendship, not antagonism. The ideal of independence, peace, and friendship is mankind's common and lofty ideal. This has become the basis for unifying the world's people in their struggle to make the world independent.

Under such changes in the world's situation, the epochal event took place wherein the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange between the North and South of Korea and the Joint Declaration on Denuclearization of the Korean peninsula were adopted and effectuated. This was a result of the energetic efforts by our party and the government of the Republic for the country's peace and reunification. With the effectuation of the North-South agreement and the joint denuclearization declaration, the foundation that can deepen discussion in various fields such as political, economic, military, and cultural has been provided. The realistic opportunity to open a decisive phase for peace and reunification has also been created by achieving national reconciliation and unity.

To maintain security on the Korean peninsula, a new order should be established in the Northeast Asian region. The normalization of DPRK-U.S. and DPRK-Japanese diplomatic relations will greatly contribute to stabilizing the situation in this region.

The changed realities show that the U.S. policy toward Korea is behind the times and runs counter to the U.S. people's interests. From a standpoint of the principle of justice in international society, current DPRK-U.S. relations are abnormal and unfair. Our Republic has so far never encroached on U.S. interests and does not contemplate to do that. However, the United States has forced its unilateral intent and demands on our people. Such a policy of the United States does not fit the demands of the changed situation.

It is important to ease tension and turn the state of truce on the Korean peninsula into a state of solid peace. This issue should be resolved among us, the United States, and South Korea. The North-South agreement, as well, contains turning the state of truce into a state of solid peace.

The military armistice system in Korea today has been almost paralyzed due to the unilateral acts of the United States and South Korea. The prevailing situation urgently demands that the armistice be turned into a solid peace. If the United States, which talks about the end of the cold war and the advent of peace, truly wants peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula, then there is no reason whatsoever for it to reject our proposal for changing the Korean Armistice Agreement into a peace agreement. There is no issue that cannot be solved with us.

While not trying to change its anachronistic policy toward Korea, the United States today urges us to change our policy and keeps its troops and military bases in South Korea in disregard of the changed realities on the Korean peninsula. Realities where the North-South agreement and the joint denuclearization declaration have been effectuated. It continuously tries to threaten us and pressure us militarily. It is clear to everyone that this is unjust and unreasonable. This also shows that the United States has not abandoned its old habit of forcing its intent upon others by resorting to strength.

There are large countries and small countries and developed nations and lesser-developed nations in the world. However, in the world neither can there exist higher countries and lower countries, nor can there exist dominating nations and dominated nations. We are a dignified nation that treasures independence as it does life. Our country is an independent and sovereign state.

Pressure and threats are legacies of the cold war era which cannot fool our nation. The United States should discard its old concept of regarding our Republic as the enemy without reason as well as resorting to force to approach the Korean question. It should also not avoid its responsibility and duties in resolving peace in Korea and its reunification.

Now that the North and the South of Korea have promised nonaggression and jointly declared the denuclearization agreement, the United States should not interfere in our national internal affairs any more, but should withdraw its armed forces from South Korea and move along a path which is conducive to peace in Korea and its reunification.

The Korean war left our nation with the serious lesson that confronting fellow countrymen by dragging in outside forces as the South Korean rulers did is an act of national ruin which brings about the national disaster of fratricidal war and benefits outside forces. Such catastrophic history should not be repeated.

Nevertheless, even today when the East-West confrontational structure has collapsed, the South Korean authorities not only have attempted to confront fellow countrymen in collusion with outside forces without discarding the cold war way of thinking as well as the habit of resorting to outside forces, they have also tried to create artificial obstacles and barriers to the road of national reunification. This is indeed a shameful act. If the South Korean authorities want to act sanely in their and the nation's best interests under today's changed realities, then they should actively join the efforts for the country's peace and reunification which is desired by all people.

A fundamental issue in consolidating the country's peace and expediting its independent and peaceful reunification is to sincerely implement the North-South agreement and the joint denuclearization declaration.

However, the South Korean authorities are causing a commotion by mentioning the North's nonexistent development of nuclear weapons. They say that they will suspend implementation of the agreement between the two sides and that no cooperation and exchange can be made until the nuclear issue is resolved. This is a deliberate maneuver to block the implemention of the North-South agreement and turn North-South relations back to the starting point that was characterized by mistrust and confrontation prior to the adoption of the agreed document. This can never be tolerated.

Once the South Korean authorities agreed to open the road to the country's peace and reunification through reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation, and exchange and jointly declared the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula with us, they should stand independently no longer relying on an outside power. They should stop increasing armaments and conducting war maneuvers and instead realize arms reduction, responding to our positive efforts for peace. They should also try to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone by accepting inspections of the U.S. nuclear bases in South Korea.

Instead of turning back to the road of war and misfortune of some 40 years ago with a wild dream of unification through absorption by defeating communism, the South Korean authorities should promote national reconciliation and unity by sincerely implementing the North-South agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization and possess the will to live with all countrymen.

Although many obstacles still lie on the road toward the fatherland's reunification, the dawn of reunification is breaking.

The spirit of our nation, which has a long history and a time-honored tradition, is alive, and the pannational main forces for reunification are firmly being prepared while the constant patriotic struggle is being carried on by the compatriots in the North, South, and overseas.

Our nation has been throughout the main force for the fatherland's reunification. All Korean compatriots living in the North, South, and overseas will defeat the obstacles of the splittist forces at home and abroad and achieve the cause of reunification in the nineties without fail. They will do this by vigorously struggling in firm unity based on patriotism and national independence.

Broad circles of the world's people, who love justice and peace, have sent us warm support and encouragement for our people's struggle for the country's peace and reunification. They have done this during this year's month of solidarity with the Korean people.

With the support and encouragement of the peace-loving people of the world, our people will vigorously carry on the sacred struggle to guarantee peace on the Korean peninsula. They will also in the future protect and defend peace in Asia and the world.

It is a basic demand in consummating the independent reunification of the fatherland and the chuche cause to firmly defend and develop socialism of our own style which is chosen by our people themselves. Our socialism will be established through our people's strength.

All functionaries and working people should bravely overcome all sorts of hardship and difficulties with the might of iron-tight single-hearted unity centering on the party and the leader, upholding the revolutionary banner of the chuche idea, and should constantly effect upsurges in socialist construction by vigorously carrying on the Three Revolutions—Ideological, Technological, and Cultural. Thereby, they should even further glorify socialism of our own style focusing it on the popular masses.

Let us all vigorously fight for the victory of the socialist cause, for the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland, and for the consummation of the chuche cause, firmly uniting around the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

South's Defense Budget Increase Criticized

SK0308074692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 3 Aug 92

["Outburst of Warmaniac"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 3 (KCNA)—The South Korean "Defense Minister" Choe Sae-Chang, speaking about the "defense budget" for next year recently, said it is "very important to build up an appropriate military strength and readjust the combat posture" at a time when "possibilities of reunification" are increasing. He drivelled that the puppet army "should make combat preparation as if it were being reborn."

This reveals the ulterior intention of a warmaniac to turn back the situation of the Korean peninsula which is moving toward reconciliation and detente and thereby to realize the daydream of "unification by prevailing over communism" by armed forces, and it is an intolerable challenge to all the fellow countrymen who want peace and reunification, says a NODONG SINMUN analyst today.

He goes on:

From the agitation of war by the puppet army brasshat one can easily guess what the South Korean authorities are dreaming of behind the curtain of North-South dialogue.

Now that the North and the South have agreed to nonaggression there is no need to increase one's fighting power aimed at military attack on the other side, if a peaceful reunification is to be achieved by honoring the commitment to nonaggression.

The puppet Defense Ministry, however, increased military spendings this year 12 percent and is scheming to increase them 17 percent next year. Already this yearn the South Korean authorities have introduced nearly 1,000 missiles from West European countries, took over missiles and rockets from the United States and are now making haste to ship into South Korea combat equipment including heavily-armed attack helicopters and related parts.

The "building of appropriate military strength" by the South Korean authorities means immediately armament expansion and arms buildup for northward invasion.

Dangerous war gambles aimed at northward invasion are now staged every day in South Korea.

By ordering the puppet army to "take the posture of rebirth" the South Korean authorities virtually mean that the puppet army should be in a combat posture for a fratricidal war, regardless of the atmosphere of national reconcilition, unity and reunification.

If they continue to aggravate the situation in pursuance of confrontation and war, they would be held wholly responsible for all the consequences arising therefrom.

Military Sources Report U.S. Military Exercises

SK0208084292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0814 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 2 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors on July 31 introduced a Pacific-based EA-6 electronic jamming plane into South Korea and staged an exercise for a surprise strike at targets in the strategic depths of the northern half of Korea with the mobilization of formations of fighter-bombers, assault planes and pursuit-assault planes belonging to the U.S. Airforce and the puppet airforce with electronic jamming in the sky above Oeyon Island and Tanyang area.

More than 300 warplanes were flown in the exercise.

On the same day, an estimated 100 fighter planes of the U.S. seventh airforce and the puppet airforce staged an air war exercise in the sky above Pyongchang, Andong and Uisong, and some 30 fighter planes and assault planes held a war game in the sky above Chunchon and Kapyong for supporting infantry units of the puppet army engaged in an ground attack exercise against the north.

Special warfare units and infantry units of the puppet army that were swiftly deployed in Tongduchon and Hwachon areas ran about feverishly in a river-crossing exercise, a chemical warfare rehearsal and a night attack exercise.

On the same day, a 105 mm artillery group of the puppet army fired over 100 shells toward areas near the demilitarized zone along the military demarcation line and armed bandits of the puppet army fired at random hundreds of bullets of the 12.7 mm machine gun and the M-16 automatic rifle.

Timing to coincide with this, the puppets mobilized formations of armed helicopters and transport helicopters in a parachutting and dropping exercise for the purpose of increasing the capabilities of air strikes at targets of the north in the forward area and for an infiltration into depths of the north side.

The warplanes which were mobilized in the war exercises in the sky above South Korea on July 31 totalled more than 650.

Defector Meets With Domestic, Foreign Reporters

SK3007113892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Pyongyang, July 30 (KCNA)—Chong Tae-su, 53, who defected to the North from South Korea some time ago, met with home and foreign reporters here today.

He graduated from the Normal College of Seoul National University before being conscripted to the Army. He once ran a cannery and worked as representative of Tae-il Construction Co. from 1984.

Referring to the motive of his defection, Chong Tae-su said:

My third uncle and sister joined the volunteer corps during the Fatherland Liberation War, so I was subjected to all sorts of persecution as a red family member. I could no longer live in the society where democracy and patriotism are put under suppression, justice and conscience trampled underfoot and the dictatorial rulers and traitors dependent on outside forces hold sway. That is why I decided to come over to the North.

Youth Korean Society is a despotic society and a hell where extreme selfishness holds sway, money is almighty and power-backed irregularities, swindles, corruption and crimes are in vogue.

The South is under the U.S. colonial domination. There the military dictators harshly suppress people and social vices are rife. The working masses in the South are much concerned about the North.

Majoring in history at Seoul National University, I was deeply interested in the history of the anti-Japanese armed struggle. General Kim Il-song who organised the anti-Japanese war with arms in hand is the greatest hero and peerless patriot in Korea.

Reading many books, I was struck with admiration at the North's popular policy of equality, especially, its independent politics.

The more I knew of the North, the more ardently I wished to come to the North. When I met with hardships and difficulties, I craved for the warm rays of the sun.

With the great honour of having respected President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong il as the great leaders, I will study hard and devotedly work for the noble cause of national reunification.

Funding for Railway Transport Increased

SK0108152092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 1 (KCNA)—The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is directing big efforts to railway transport, defining it as the pilot of the national economy.

The budgetary appropriations to capital construction in power industry, coal industry and railway transportation this year are 5 percent up on last year.

Heavy rails have been laid and the production of 8-axle electric locomotives and 100-ton wagons has been increased to accelerate the switchover to heavy rail operation, sections of electric traction have been extended and many new lines laid.

The electrification of the Hyesan-Manpho line extending over 250 km has progressed at a fast speed. The construction of substations and other facilities for the electric traction has been completed in the main in the whole section, thousands of electric poles have been erected and aerial wires have been laid in a section of scores of kilometres in a short span of time.

In the electrification of the Hamhung-Sinhung line electric poles have been erected, the auxiliary and main aerial wires laid and electric equipment assembled at an accelerated pace to enter the finishing stage in three months.

A new railway line is under construction between Namdong and Onchon. The roadbed building has been completed and the construction of railway bridges, retaining walls and small structures has entered the final stage.

Kim Yong-nam Meets Syrian Foreign Minister

SK0108055492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0426 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 1 (KCNA)—Talks were held in Damascus over July 28-29 between Vice-premier and Foreign Minister of Korea Kim Yong-nam and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

At the talks, views were exchanged on the development of relations between Korea and Syria and international issues of common concern.

Kim Yong-nam Pays Official Visit to Syria

WA0308141592

For Damascus TV and Damascus Radio reportage on the visit by Vice Premier and Foreign Affairs Minister Kim Yong-nam to Syria, including reports on his talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', please see the Syria section of the 29 July Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

South Korea

Seoul To Protest U.S. Steel Antidumping Charges

SK0108054892 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 1 Aug 92 p 8

[Text] The Trade-Industry Ministry will send letters of protest to the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and Commerce secretary in connection with a decision to investigate 84 anti-dumping suits against steel import.

The move follows Tuesday's [28 July] meeting of government and business officials, the second meeting of its kind prompted by the U.S. action July 20.

The ministry will make an all-out effort to exclude hot-rolled sheet, which accounts for 60 percent of Korean steel exports to the United States, from the anti-dumping suits. A preliminary ruling is scheduled for Aug. 14.

Hot-rolled sheet is made by UPI [expansion unknown], a joint venture between Pohang Iron and Steel Co. of Korea and USX of the United States, and has little effect on the American steel industry, according to ministry officials.

The ministry will seek joint measures with major countries, particularly Japan and the European Community, that have been accused of dumping steel products in the U.S. market and may file a collective suit with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the officials said.

Iraq Urged To Comply With UN Resolutions

SK0308024292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0230 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 3 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea called on Iraq to fully comply with United Nations resolutions and normalize the situation in the Gulf Monday [3 August].

"The Foreign Ministry shares the concerns of the world community over recent developments in the Gulf caused by continued disputes between Iraq and the United Nations in the process of applying U.N. Security Council [UNSC] resolutions," a ministry spokesman said.

The situation could be normalized only if Iraq carried out its obligations, imposed in the wake of the Gulf war, contributing to peace and stability in the region, the spokesman said.

"The government, therefore, calls upon the Government of the Republic of Iraq to sincerely comply with all the relevant UNSC resolutions without further delay," he said.

Remarks on Russia-DPRK Treaty Rejected

SK0208022092 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Aug 92 p 2

[Text] Remarks by Song Ung-sop, first deputy chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on the treaty on mutual assistance and cooperation between Russia and North Korea does not represent the official position of the South Korean government, a ranking Foreign Ministry official said yesterday.

Reports have it that Song called upon Russia to abrogate the treaty with North Korea when he met Russian military leaders in Moscow.

The ministry official commented, "It is nonsensical for a country to talk about a treaty concluded between other sovereign states. If the reports are true, Song's remarks are only his personal views."

Russia, who has been a major ally of North Korea for four decades, established full diplomatic ties with South Korea in September, 1990.

North-South Military Subcommittee Meets 3 Aug

SK0308090592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0853 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 3 (YONHAP)—The Military Subcommittee of the inter-Korean high-level talks met at Panmunjom Monday [3 August] to discuss the proposed adoption of an auxiliary agreement on how to implement non-aggression.

The subcommittee members, two from each side, tried to iron out differences over conflicting clauses of their respective versions.

No substantial agreement was reached but they decided to meet again Aug. 12 at the same conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in the truce village of Panmunjom.

The meeting was arranged under an agreement reached at a subcommittee chairmen's contact July 23 to adjust the wording of an auxiliary agreement in the area of non-aggression.

North, South Sports Ministers Reach Agreement

SK0308055192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0308 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Barcelona, Aug. 3 (OANA-YONHAP)—South and North Korean sports ministers agreed Sunday [2 August] to mutually invite and participate in international competitions in each others' sides.

The two officials agreed to reopen talks on inter-Korean sports cooperation and exchanges suspended since August last year after North Korean judoka Yi Chang-su defected to Seoul.

South Korean sports minister Yi Chin-sam and his North Korean counterpart Kim Yu-son met for nearly an hour at the hotel where Kim is staying.

Yi formally invited North Korea to the World Junior Track and Field Tournament opening in Seoul next month, officials said.

Recalling the inter-Korean joint team fielded at the 41st World Table Tennis Championships in Japan in April last year, Yi proposed that Seoul and Pyongyang do the same for the championships in Sweden next year.

It was the first joint team for the two Koreas since their division in 1945.

Kim said he will positively consider the proposals, adding that all exchanges between South and North Korea should follow the terms stated in the inter-Korean agreement on basic relations.

The North Korean sports minister explained that his country will not be able to host the Winter Asian Games in 1995 in Samjiyon because of "environmental reasons" but will instead host the Second East Asian Games in 1995.

"The misunderstanding from Yi Chang-su's defection has been removed," Yi said after the meeting, "I believe the inter-Korean sports exchanges will proceed actively from now on."

EPB Minister Comments on Plan for Nampo Survey

SK0108231692 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 28 Jul 92 p 6

[News conference by Choe Kak-kyu, deputy prime minister and minister of the Economic Planning Board, with unidentified foreign and domestic correspondents]

[Text] Choe Kak-kyu, deputy prime minister and minister of the Economic Planning Board [EPB], said that "the decision to send a survey team to Nampo was made because the North Korean authorities officially asked our government to make this a pilot project. In addition, we thought that this kind of pilot project might be necessary as a preliminary undertaking with the North before full-fledged work begins."

In a news conference attended by domestic and foreign reporters in the government building in Kwachon on 27 July to summarize the visit to Seoul by Kim Tal-hyon, vice premier of the North Korean Administration Council, Deputy Prime Minister Choe said that sending a survey team to Nampo means that we are beginning some of the projects agreed upon by the North and Kim U-chung, chairman of Daewoo Business Group, such as textile, sewing, and shoe manufacturing. Following are the questions and answers exchanged between reporters and Deputy Prime Minister Choe.

[Reporter] In a news conference held prior to his departure from Seoul, Vice Premier Kim Tal-hyon announced that the North and the South had reached an agreement on a pilot project in Nampo complex, contradicting the government's announcement of a decision to send only a survey team.

[Choe Kak-kyu] The relevant authorities in the North and the South officially brought up topics that had already been agreed upon between Chairman Kim U-chung and North Korea and agreed to send a survey team. If North Korea accepted this agreement as was reported, that acceptance might have been promoted by misunderstanding.

[Reporter] Who will be on the survey team for Nampo and what will its major activities be?

[Choe] The survey team will consist of government officials, members of the Land Development Corporation, and civilian entrepreneurs. The team will directly observe social overhead facilities [sahoe kanjob sisol] within the complex such as the industrial-purpose water system, electricity system, and communications system. Laws concerning joint ventures such as the joint venture law, the scale of each project, and time required for construction of projects will also be studied.

[Reporter] Do you plan to invite North Korean officials to discuss how to provide systematic mechanisms required for North-South economic cooperation?

[Choe] Differences in systems on both sides must be narrowed to promote North-South exchange and cooperation. If the North should require our experience, we would be willing to share it.

[Reporter] Will the survey team go only to Nampo?

[Choe] Yes. That is the plan right now. The team will visit only Nampo unless the North proposes otherwise.

[Reporter] Vice Premier Kim said that the nuclear issue was not raised at all during his visit. Is this true?

[Choe] In several meetings between government authorities, we clearly conveyed our position on the nuclear issue.

[Reporter] Vice Premier Kim said that when the ROK entrepreneurs go to North Korea, he will guarantee their profits. What is your opinion on this?

[Choe] Vice Premier Kim also told to me that "entrepreneurs must seek profits." His frank remarks were quite impressive.

[Reporter] Can any other team go to North Korea if its purpose is limited to conducting preliminary surveys for pilot projects?

[Choe] Approval will depend on the nature of the projects.

[Reporter] Does the North Korean side consider the Daewoo Group the only channel for its economic cooperation?

[Choe] I am not sure about that. What is true is that Daewoo maintained close contact with the North. Everyone knows this.

[Reporter] What are the prospects for the annexed agreement on North-South exchange and cooperation?

[Choe] I told Vice Premier Kim that of the annexed agreements for three subcommittees, precedence should be given to the agreement on exchange and cooperation. Vice Premier Kim appeared to have the same idea.

Report on North's Nuclear Offer to U.S. Cited

SK0308105492 Seoul YONHAP in English 1038 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 3 (YONHAP)—North Korea has informally expressed to the U.S. Administration its policy to allow Washington's direct participation in inspection of their nuclear facilities, the MAINICHI SHINBUN here reported Monday [3 August].

In a dispatch from Washington, the Japanese daily said Pyongyang also showed the willingness to hand materials on its nuclear facilities over to the U.S. and proposed a tripartite meeting among South and North Korea and the U.S. to discuss the nuclear issue.

The dispatch quoting a U.S. Government source said, "through a U.S. private citizen who visited Pyongyang recently, North Korean authorities expressed to the top U.S. leader the wish to improve their relations with the U.S., and to this end disclosed the willingness to accept the U.S.'s participation in the inspection of North Korean nuclear facilities."

The newspaper did not say who was the American visitor, but said the American talked in Pyongyang with Kim Yong-sun, director of the Workers Party International Department, and Kim Tal-hyon, vice premier.

In a separate article datelined in Seoul, the MAINICHI said Seoul government authorities belittled the new North Korean approach by commenting, "in view of their past practice, such a proposal has little chance for realization."

DLP Unilaterally Opens National Assembly

SK0108075792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0618 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 1 (YONHAP)—The National Assembly opened an extraordinary session Saturday [1 August] morning with only ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] legislators in attendance.

Among celebrities invited to the opening session were Chief Justice Kim Tok-chu, Prime Minister Chong Won-sik and Cho Kyu-kwang, head of the Constitutional Court, and all members of the Cabinet.

The DLP will submit a number of bills, including one on the selection of standing committee chairmen, at a plenary meeting on Monday afternoon, select committee chairmen on Wednesday, and then act on a bill postponing local elections.

Stormy sailing is foreseen as the Democratic and Unification National Parties [UNP—officially renamed United People's Party] are bent on stopping the DLP from running the assembly alone.

At a floor leaders meeting Saturday morning, the opposition parties agreed to "physically" prevent the DLP from operating the special sitting.

The floor leaders also agreed their parties would jointly push for the impeachment of President No Tae-u and Prime Minister Chong Won-sik.

They argue No should be impeached because he failed in his duty to call the local elections even though he had himself promulgated the local election law, which was then legislated through agreement between the ruling and opposition parties.

They charge Chong of having neglected his duty to assist the President so that an election date could be announced within the legally prescribed date.

In an address to the assembly, Speaker Pak Chun-kyu called on the heads of the three major political parties to openheartedly discuss state affairs.

After the session, Pak called floor leaders of the three parties to his room and tried to find a way out of the impasse.

The opposition parties have formed "emergency standby teams" of legislators that will be on duty in the assembly 24 hours a day from Monday to stop the ruling party from running it.

The floor leaders agreed the impeachment bills will be drafted by the Democratic Party and reviewed by top policy officials from both parties.

In a statement on the opening of a special sitting, the ruling party said: "we called the special session because the people are enraged at the deadlock in parliament for more than two months."

Pak Hui-tae, DLP spokesman, said the opposition parties were seeking to jeopardize the floor operation through violence.

"But violence cannot be tolerated under any circumstances," Pak said.

"Violence employed to counter an alleged violation of the law remains violence, but in addition it is another violation of the law," he said.

DP Reacts to DLP Move

SK0108061392 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 1 Aug 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Sin Yong-pae]

[Text] Angered by the ruling party's unilateral convening of a National Assembly session today, lawmakers of the main opposition Democratic Party [DP] yesterday took a tougher stand and decided to submit a bill calling for the impeachment of Prime Minister Chong Won-sik for the government's refusal to hold local elections by the end of June.

The party also plans to file a motion recommending that the Assembly impeach President No Tae-u for the same reasons.

The decision, which was made at a caucus of party lawmakers, came after the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) decided to brave the opposition's objection to form the standing parliamentary committees and railroad a bill postponing the second round of local polls until 1995 through the Assembly.

DP spokesman Chang Sok-hwa said his party would seek an alliance with the minor opposition group, United People's Party (UPP), to submit the impeachment bills to the single-house parliament.

Under the law, the approval by at least one third of the National Assembly members is required to introduce a bill to impeach the prime minister or a cabinet member. A majority is required to pass the bill. The No. 1 opposition party has 97 parliamentary seats and the UPP 32 seats in the 299-member legislature.

It is highly unlikely that the impeachment bills will clear the Assembly.

The DP lawmakers also asked the ruling party to withdraw its decision to operate the Assembly unilaterally for two weeks.

The 14-day Assembly session is to open today at the request of the majority of ruling party lawmakers, but the two opposition parties will boycott it.

The opposition lawmakers vowed to foil any attempt to ram revisions of the local election laws through the Assembly "by all means".

They urged the government party not to form the standing committees by itself.

The DP and UPP have strongly objected forming the standing committees in a bid to prevent the ruling DLP from passing amendments of the local election laws through the Assembly.

DP leader Kim Tae-chung said securing fairness in the coming presidential election is possible only when the nation puts into effect a full-fleged local autonomy system. The first round of elections to form local assemblies was held last year.

Kim was quoted as saying that if his party fails to block the passage of revisions of the local election laws, the nation will enjoy greater local automomy only after the 21st century.

"We should fight against the government and its party to the end to salvage the country," Kim told his party lawmakers, spokesman Chang said.

Speaking at the caucus, Han Hwa-kap accused the ruling DLP of placing partisan gains before national interests. He charged that President No Tae-u and Kim Yong-sam should be held accountable jointly for violating the local election laws.

Pak Kye-tong, a dissident turned lawmaker, charged: "President No has been disregarding the law. He is also suspected of corruption with regard to the promotion of a number of suspicious projects toward the end of his term. These factors have combined to trigger the current national crisis.

"We all should be ready to give up our parliamentary seats if the ruling party continues violating the Constitution. Our presidential candidate Kim Tae-chung should also consider not running for this year's presidential election depending on the development of the situation," he said.

Chang Yong-tal, also a dissident turned lawmaker, terming the ruling party's unilateral convening of an Assembly session a "criminal act," said, "The opposition should launch a war on such crimes."

An Tong-sun charged that Kim Yong-sam has made a wrong political judgment out of his greed for power.

Yi Hae-chan called for stepped-up efforts to publicize the "urgency" of the local election question. He asserted that without the direct election of local administrative chiefs, it would be difficult to prevent a massive rigging by civil servants in the coming presidential election.

Meanwhile, the minor opposition United People's Party said that it will "mobilize all means and methods" to stop the ruling Democratic Liberals in case they try to railroad a bill delaying the second round of local polls.

The party instructed its lawmakers now in their electoral districts to come to Seoul to guard against the DLP's unilateral action on the bill.

'Touch-and-Go' Confrontation Noted

SK0208021292 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Aug 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Kim Song-pok]

[Text] A touch-and-go confrontation between the rival parties hangs in the air in the National Assembly which opened unilaterally by the ruling party yesterday.

Both the ruling and the opposition camps adopt hard-line strategies with little leeway of compromise, but for a head-on collision. [sentence as published]

Taking advantage of the public outcry against the loitering National Assembly whose inaugural 30-day session was boycotted by the opposition, the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] took the one-sided step of convening an extra House session which will run for a fortnight.

It is determined to follow its own action plan of electing the chairmen of 10 standing committees next week, leaving the formation of seven other panels to the opposition parties.

The DLP will soon act on the revision draft of the Local Autonomy Election Law for the legal backing of President No Tae-u's unilateral postponement of mayoral and gubernatorial elections from the first half of this year to 1995.

DLP floor leader Kim Yong-tae told reporters, "The House speaker has called upon the opposition parties to submit their lists of legislators assigned to the House committees three times."

"The responsibility lies in the leadership of the parties which did not comply with the speaker's call. Therefore, the unilateral action of forming the committees is legal," he added, indicating strongly that his party will go ahead with its action program without fail.

Deputy DLP whip Yi Song-ho said, "The opposition cannot block the House operation desperately for 14 days, can it?"

The tough DLP push will invariably meet strong opposition resistance of "mobilizing all means" to try to stop it.

The ruling party's hard-line strategy is taken by the opposition as a scheme to depict the opposition as a spoiler rather than a partner of dialogue.

DP [Democratic Party] floor leader Yi Chol said in a party caucus yesterday, "The DLP is trying to induce the opposition parties to engage in scuffles with a view of propaganda on TV."

DP Rep. Choe Nak-to cried out in the caucus, "Tough struggles will make the ruling party awaken."

The DP yesterday reaffirmed its position of blocking the House session physically. Put on alert against the DLP's possible blitz action on the controversial local election statute at a place other than the main chamber, it decided to post its members at several conference halls.

The major opposition will have the main force of its lawmakers stage a sit-in at the main chamber from Monday [3 August] on.

The minor opposition United People's Party [UPP] aligned with the DP against the ruling party.

UPP president Chong Chu-yong said, "The unilateral convening of the House by the DLP is aimed at railroading bills at stake."

House Speaker Pak Chun-kyu yesterday arranged a meeting of floor leaders with the two vice speakers attending shortly after the opening ceremony but they found themselves wide apart.

He proposed a meeting of the leaders of the three parties on 9 a.m. Monday and warned that he will put forth the agenda of forming the committees in a plenary session Monday by his own decision.

Ostensibly, the differences on when to hold the local elections lies in the core of the high-running conflicts between the rival parties.

However, the undercurrent reason is the selfish counting of merit and cost in the December presidential election.

Currently, the DLP shows no signs of backing down from its unilateral deferment of the elections under the excuse of economic pinches facing the nation.

If the opposing camps do not try to meet halfway on the touchy issues, the stand-off is sure to extend into the regular House session which opens in September mainly to deliberate the government budget.

In his speech at the opening ceremony of the extra House session, Speaker Pak refuted the power race which has taken the National Assembly hostage.

DP Plans Sit-in

SK0308040792 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 2 Aug 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Kim Chong-chan]

[Text] Lawmakers of the main opposition Democratic Party (DP) plan to start a sit-in at the National Assembly today in an attempt to block the ruling party from inaugurating the standing parliamentary committees and railroading a government-proposed bill calling for the postponement of local polls until 1995, raising the specter of a head-on confrontation between the rival parties.

Kim Yong-tae, the majority party's floor leader, said over the weekend that his party would elect 10 parliamentary committee chairmen in a plenary session today unless the DP agrees on top-level talks designed to normalize the Assembly.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) plans to ram the local election bill through the single-house legislature after electing the committee chairmen, Kim said.

Argument over the timing of the election of mayors, provincial governors and other local administration chiefs has stalled operations of the newly elected National Assembly whose inaugural meeting took place June 29.

Addressing the opening ceremony of an extra parliamentary session which was unilaterally convened by the government party early Saturday [1 August], Speaker Pak Chun-kyu suggested that the presidential candidates of the three major parties meet as soon as possible to find ways to resolve the political stalemate.

Pak asked opposition lawmakers to return to parliament "unconditionally."

Opposition lawmakers and some independent legislators boycotted the opening session to protest the government's postponement of the local polls.

Yi Chol, DP floor leader, said his party would accept Pak's proposal for a three-way meeting if a guarantee is given that the ruling party will not unilaterally form the standing committees and ram the local election bill through the legislature.

After a meeting of key party officials, Yi told reporters that a final decision on whether to accept Speaker Pak's offer would be made at a meeting of the party's Supreme Council this morning.

Kim Tae-chung, leader of the largest opposition party, also told reporters in Taegu yesterday that he would attend the proposed three-way meeting, if the ruling party promises not to railroad the local election bill through the legislature.

He also demanded that the ruling party put off the formation of committees until there is an accord on the local election issue.

Kim Chong-nam, floor leader of the No. 2 opposition United People's Party (UPP), however, accepted Pak's offer.

UPP officials said their party does not oppose the formation of the parliamentary committee. "But we will join forces with the DP to foil any attempt to ram revisions of the local election laws through the legislature by all means, including physical ones," one official said.

Opposition parties have refused to submit their lists of party lawmakers assigned to the parliamentary committees, including some committee chairmen, in an attempt to block the passage of the local election bill.

Of 17 standing parliamentary committee chairmanships, 10 will go to the ruling party which has 159 seats in the 299-member National Assembly. Of the remaining seven, five will go to the DP which has 96 seats. Two chairmen will be picked from the UPP with 32 seats.

The legislature, whose term began May 30, reconvened Saturday for a two week run at the request of the majority party. The new National Assembly's inaugural session June 29-July 28 achieved almost nothing except the election of the speaker and two vice speakers because of interparty haggling over the timing of local elections.

Parties Continue To Differ on Local Elections

SK0308041092 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 3 Aug 92 p 2

["News analysis" by staff reporter Kang Sang-yun]

[Text] The showdown between the rival political parties over the timing of the second round of local elections is still going with no end in sight.

Barring "statesman-like moves" from Kim Yong-sam or Kim Tae-chung, many fear the confrontation is certain to continue until the presidential election due in December.

On the surface, the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) says there is no change in its position that "too many elections" this year would wreck the already troubled national economy. The party points out that the parliamentary elections were held in March and the presidential election is scheduled for mid-December.

The opposition says the opposite. The No. 1 opposition Democratic Party (DP) contends that delaying the local elections sheds light on the ruling party's hidden intention to rig the presidential election.

Ruling party officials say the election of mayors, governors and chiefs of counties in the provinces and wards in the cities would result in a sudden increase in the supply of money, thereby stirring up prices which have been showing signs of stabilization lately.

They say that hundreds or possibly thousands of candidates would spend money like water, inflicting irrevocable damage on the economy.

The DP appears mindful of such woes, and maintains that holding the polls simultaneously with the presidential vote in December would not have this effect.

The ruling party says the majority of the population is standing behind it. It alleges that a recent opinion survey showed that 70 percent of the respondents voiced support for its stand.

DP official are quick to refute the claim and say that a majority of Koreans are behind them.

Strangely enough, however, neither the ruling nor opposition party suggests that a referendum be held on the timing of the local polls.

President No Tae-u in January announced indefinite postponement of the polls, citing the toll they would take on the economy. He called on the newly elected National Assembly to set the new date.

The government party has decided to put off the elections until 1995, inviting strong protest from the opposition.

The main opposition Democratic Party is concerned that local officials would roll their sleeves up and work for the victory of the ruling party presidential contender simply to preserve their positions.

At present, all local government heads are political appointees.

The ruling party, however, brushes aside the opposition's allegation and contends that government officials would stay neutral in the upcoming presidential election.

The "heightened" political awareness of Koreans would not tolerate election fraud which had been a main source of conflict between the ruling and opposition parties in the past, DLP officials say.

The opposition DP, aligned with the minor opposition United People's Party (UPP), charges that the government has violated the law by not holding the local elections during the first six months of this year. The law governing local autonomy provides that the polls be carried out by the end of June.

The ruling party, however, argues that the provisions in question are not binding. Still, the party appears to be concerned about criticism from the press as well as the opposition parties.

The DLP is not in a hurry to amend the law and to legitimately postpone the polls beyond 1992.

There was an unconfirmed report last week that President No had ordered a speedy amendment to the local autonomy laws.

Is a dramatic compromise between the warring groups hard to achieve?

The ruling party's chief executive and presidential candidate, Kim Yong-sam, has recently hinted at the possibility of delaying the polls to next year or 1994.

Some DP officials have said the government party "proposed" that one of the two local polls be held this year and another in 1993 or later. One of the polls is to elect chiefs of small administration units like wards and counties. The other is to pick mayors in the six big cities and governors of provinces.

Ruling party officials have denied this, saying there has been no change in their basic position.

A top official of the Democratic Party recently said his party would not object if the government decided to hold one of the local elections this year.

Yi Ki-taek, co-chairman of the largest opposition party, however, took this back, saying it was only his private view. Hard-liners in his party reportedly pressured him to recall his remark.

In a caucus of DP lawmakers Friday [31 July], some attendants even urged Kim Tae-chung to boycott the presidential race, unless the ruling camp changes its mind.

Kim claims that the ruling party could rig more than 1 million votes, at least 100 from each polling place throughout the country.

He appears to believe that unless the local elections are held this year, his chances in the December election are slim. Or it may be that he wants to deal a heavy blow to the ruling party by continuing a get-tough stance regarding the local election issue.

Kim Yong-sam, a long-time archrival of Kim Tae-chung, says that his determination should not be underestimated. He called the Assembly into session Saturday, even to the bewilderment of some officials of his own party.

What will DP do if the DLP rams the local election bill through the Assembly, as it has threatened to do so?

Would all the opposition lawmakers go to extremes and give up membership of the National Assembly? Few anticipate that.

But the main opposition DP lawmakers may stay out of the assembly for a considerable time, hampering normal operation of the Assembly.

Signs of Possible Cooperation

SK0308055992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0314 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 3 (YONHAP)—There is a lingering chance that leaders of ruling and opposition parties will meet face to face early this week and steer their parties away from a volatile confrontation in the National Assembly.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) called the Assembly into session last week despite a boycott by the main opposition Democratic Party (DP) and Unification National Party (UNP) [officially renamed United People's Party].

The DP and UNP insist that the DLP hold the local elections this year. The main opposition DP had refused even a three-party meeting without word first from the DLP that it would keep its promise to hold the elections.

The DP has become more flexible, however, growing conscious of the public outcry over the political paralysis in the Assembly.

DP leader Kim Tae-chung said Sunday [2 August] he was willing to attend a three-party meeting if speaker Pak Chun-kyu guaranteed that the DLP would not railroad a bill delaying the elections through the parliament.

Party sources said the leadership was fully aware of the need for the three-way meeting and would agree if the speaker promised not to cooperate with the DLP in passing the local election bill, or to at least "try" to pass the bill through compromise between the ruling and opposition parties.

"It's definitely progress," Pak said in response to the DP's new position, an indication that he was ready to study the opposition proposal.

Both the DP and UNP held high-level meetings Monday morning for readjustment before answering the invitation to the three-party meeting.

Sources say negotiations are under way for the two opposition parties to jointly request that the speaker not pass the local election bill.

Floor leaders Yi Chul (DP) and Kim Chung-nam (UNP) agreed on this point in a private contact Sunday, the sources said, and okayed the three-way meeting on this condition.

But observers say a three-party meeting is unlikely to solve all the problems. The answer to the core of the problem—delay of local elections—will not come unless one side changes its mind.

The DP is set on local elections within the year.

Kim Tae-chung, giving a lecture in Taegu Sunday afternoon, said his party "will never give up" in implementing local autonomy and put up a fight "to the end" at the regular National Assembly session in the fall.

"We will not hesitate to mobilize all possible legal means such as 10 million signatures and outdoor rallies," he said.

Unless the three leaders meet with minds ready to compromise, the much-awaited meeting may come to naught, observers say.

Kim Yong-sam Tries 'To Appease' Kim Chong-pil

SK0208022592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Aug 92 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: " 'Phone Call' "]

[Text] In an apparent move to appease co-chairman Kim Chong-pil to firm up party unity in the face of the presidential election in December, executive chairman Kim Yong-sam called him, wishing him a speedy recovery from his back pain.

Executive chairman Kim said he is expecting him to resume his work at his party office early this week.

Co-chairman Kim has been closeting himself in his home under the pretext of back pains. But in reality he is protesting the apparent move not to appoint him as executive chairman when Kim rises to the party's top post of presidency now held by President No Tae-u.

It was learned that co-chairman Kim thanked executive chairman Kim for the call, saying that he caused trouble for him by staying away from his office.

His followers have threatened to do whatever they could to damage the party if their boss is not made executive chairman, alerting executive chairman Kim at a time when he needs the help of party leaders for the coming presidential election.

DLP To Name Party Leaders by End of Aug

SK0308022592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0148 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 3 (YONHAP)—The Standing Committee of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) will meet by the end of this month to name Kim Yong-sam, DLP executive chairman and presidential candidate, the party's president and to nominate Co-chairman Kim Chong-pil to succeed Kim as executive chairman, party sources said Monday [3 August].

President No Tae-u, the current DLP president, will become honorary party president, they said.

Kim Chong-pil's seat on the Executive Council will remain vacant, so Pak Tae-chun will be the sole co-chairman. The council is allowed an executive chairman and four co-chairmen under the DLP Charter, but two seats are empty.

A close aide to Kim Yong-sam said the overriding opinion in the ruling camp was that consideration should be given to having Kim Yong-sam keep his "political faith" with Kim Chong-pil by making him executive chairman. Kim Yong-sam will declare Kim Chong-pil DLP executive chairman right after becoming party president, he said.

The DLP leadership once studied appointing Kwon Ik-hyon as a co-chairman but feared that putting a new face on the Executive Council prior to the presidential election would touch off discord inside the party, formed by the merger of three parties two years ago.

Defense Ministry To Buy Spanish Aircraft

SK0308044892 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 3 Aug 92 p 1

[Text] On 2 August the Ministry of National Defense finalized its decision to purchase CN235M aircraft manufactured by Construcciones Aeronauticas Sa [CASA] of Spain. The purchase of this aircraft is part of a project to upgrade the army's fighting power, a project called Medium-Size Transport Planes or the CX [preceding letters published in English; expansion unknown]. The Ministry of Defense said that it plans to purchase 12 aircraft by the end of 1995.

The medium-sized transport plane project is designed to make strategic airlift more effective by filling the gap between the large strategic C-130 transport planes and the large CH-47 helicopters being used by the ROK Air Force.

The Ministry of Defense has been studying information in order to choose between Spain's CASA's CN345M and Italy's (Aeritalia's) G222.

The funds needed for the project is expected to total $200 million. Of this, $164 million is for the purchase of 12 CN235M at $14 million each, and the rest will go for the parts and support equipment.

The Ministry of Defense also signed an agreement with CASA on the transfer of flight control system technology as part of the purchase of the medium-size transport planes.

Costs To Make Investors Favor Southwest Asia

SK0308040892 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 3 Aug 92 p 8

[Text] China and Southwest Asian countries appear most attractive in the eyes of Korean investors as investment circumstances worsen in Southeast Asia due to the increase in labor costs, the Korea Foreign Trade Association (KFTA) said.

KFTA, in a report on business circumstances in the Asian region, forecasts a new trend as Korean manufacturers that rushed to Southeast Asia change their course to China and Southwest Asia because of increased labor costs and a drop in labor-productivity in their former favorite.

Labor in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and China is 23 percent the cost in Korea, compared with 30 percent in Southeast Asian countries, and labor productivity in Southwest Asia is 72 percent of that in Korea, China is 69 percent, and Southeast Asia just 68 percent, the report said.

China appeared to be the best place for plant relocation concerning financing outlay as it costs 69 percent as much as Korea, but it was much higher in Southeast and Southwest Asia with 92 percent and 97 percent, respectively, of Korea's level.

Factory lease and maintenance proved to be cheapest in China, 43 percent of Korea's level, Southwest Asia was 50 percent and Southeast Asia 62 percent.

Burma

Opposition Statement on SLORC National Convention

BK0108123792 (Clandestine) Democratic Voice of Burma in Burmese 1430 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Statement of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma on its stand on the State Law and Order Restoration Council's plan to convene a national convention; dated 25 April 1992]

[Text] 1. The SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] military clique is currently making preparations under a slogan aimed at convening a national convention after holding multiparty democratic general elections on 27 May 1990. Meanwhile, it continues to refuse to transfer power to the elected representatives of the People's Assembly—the outcome of the general elections.

In order to continue to deceive and rule the people, the SLORC is endeavoring to convene a sham convention which is not in accordance with the needs of the nation and the people, and which lacks political substance.

2. A national convention can be convened and presided over only by a government which has been entrusted with power by the people at a time and under conditions which are believed to be free and fair and accepted by the people.

3. The SLORC, being a military clique which seized state power through the use of force without the consent of the people, which oppresses the people and violates human rights, and which does not respect the wishes of the people, is not an organization capable of holding a national convention. It also does not have the authority to hold a national convention.

4. The SLORC has refused to convene the People's Assembly, composed of representatives elected in the general elections on 27 May 1990, and to transfer power. This is in order to deliberately undermine the effectiveness of the power of the People's Assembly and the role of the representatives.

5. Continued detention of well-known and popular opposition political leaders, the arrest of People's Assembly representatives and the revoking of their status under various pretexts, and the abolition of political parties are aimed at preventing their adversaries and political parties from attending the national convention.

6. The SLORC has been organizing and giving favors to insurgent organizations engaged in drug smuggling and some armed ethnic groups which betrayed their organizations for their own selfish ends. The SLORC has been carrying out negotiations and establishing peace with them, and appointing them as leaders of indigenous races. The SLORC continues with its deception by presenting them as leaders of indigenous races who will attend the national convention.

7. The selection criteria of delegates to the SLORC's national convention does not include any national representation. Therefore, it will not be able to ensure long-term political stability and the restoration of national solidarity nor solve basic political problems.

8. Revolutionary organizations which are presently engaged in an armed struggle are waging their struggle with the political objectives of achieving rights for indigenous races and the democratic cause. A national convention without their representation will not represent the entire nation and will not solve the key, political problems such as the restoration of national solidarity.

9. The fact that the martial law remains in force today and that restrictions on political freedom and freedom of writing, expression, and publication remain clearly shows that the SLORC does not want the national convention to be (?open) and representative of the popular wishes.

10. The SLORC, by holding a national convention, intends to achieve the upper hand in order to ensure the standing of the military clique and to again deceive the international and Burmese public.

11. Therefore, the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma shall not recognize the sham national convention to be convened by the SLORC and shall oppose the convention, which lacks political substance.

Date: 25 April 1992

Authorities Take Steps To Control Students

BK2907133592 Hong Kong AFP in English 1119 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Bangkok, July 29 (AFP)—Burma's military rulers have taken steps to bring the nation's universities to heel, including tightening security, regulating the number of students on campus and adding correspondence courses to encourage home study.

Students have been in the forefront of the nation's democracy movement and a thorn in the side of the generals even though the junta padlocked the schools when they took over in September 1988 and allowed them to reopen for only a few months last year. Fresh demonstrations closed the schools again last November.

Burma now has some 30,000 high school graduates waiting to enter the nation's universities. Rangoon authorities said earlier this week that they hope to reopen the schools within a month, although no specific date was set.

When students return they will find uniformed guards on campus entrances, campus employees who have been screened and issued security IDs that they must wear, and new walls that compartmentalize the grounds to make it easier for police to seal off and isolate trouble spots, said sources contacted by telephone in Rangoon.

Authorities also want to reduce the number of students on campus at any one time, believing that the fewer the number the less volatile the crowd. So classes will be staggered over a longer period of time, the sources said Wednesday.

A new proctor system will make teachers responsible for an as yet unspecified number of students, Rangoon's official newspaper WORKING PEOPLE's DAILY reported also Wednesday.

Thousands of teachers have attended mandatory, boot camp-like re-education courses in recent months that stressed discipline and controlling students.

"The teaching staff who work closely with the students must especially guard against infiltration of undesirable elements within the student body and systematically and swiftly put into action contingency plans already worked out," the paper said in an editorial.

It did not explain the contingency plans.

A new correspondance system called "The University of Distance Learning" also will be introduced to let students study at home via television and radio. Those completing the coursework will receive general arts and sciences degrees, the newspaper said.

"Distance education is a concept already well established in other Asian countries such as Thailand, India, South Korea and Pakistan, and which we urgently need to introduce here to cope with an ever increasing student population," a Rangoon university professor told AFP.

The concept will gradually be developed to that of an open university, where students are not required to pass entrance examinations, and eventually to the "privatization" of higher education in Burma, he said, speaking anonymously.

Semiannual Statistics on Drug Seizures Reported

BK0308090092 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0630 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] The government of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] has been implementing narcotic drugs suppression activities as a national duty. In the fight against narcotic drugs, the Central Committee and the work committee for drug abuse control have made separate plans in accordance with their respective requirements and have performed narcotic drug prevention activities. The defense service personnel, people's police force members, and the customs department officials have been working hand in hand with the local populace in accordance with the 1974 Narcotic Drugs Law in carrying out narcotic drug suppression works.

The following seizures were reported in the first six months—1 January 1992 to 30 June 1992. The various army companies and regiments seized 363.383 kgs of opium, 11.132 kgs of heroin, 37.559 kgs of marijuana, and 21 liters of phensedyl. The customs department confiscated 3.12 kgs of heroin and 31 liters of phensedyl. The people's police force seized 513.455 kgs of opium from 295 related cases, 81.533 kgs of heroin from 978 related cases, 0.174 kg of opium concentrate from 18 related cases, 177.432 kgs of marijuana from 320 related cases, and 1,557.501 liters of phensedyl from 123 related cases. The police filed 171 cases for failing to register and took action on 39 other narcotic drug-related cases.

The people's police force filed a total of 2,643 cases while legal action was taken against 3,628 persons.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Foreign Minister Opposes Sanctions Against Burma

BK0208084692 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Malaysia opposes any form of sanctions against Myanmar [Burma]. The minister of foreign affairs Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi said the imposition of sanctions will only cause hardships to its people and further isolate Myanmar. Malaysia believes talks and constructive engagements with Myanmar will be more suited to using democratic reforms there. He was commenting on a call by an Australian senator that sanctions be imposed against Myanmar if that government does not improve its human rights and democracy record.

Datuk Abdullah said ASEAN foreign ministers at their recent meeting in Manila heard an assessment from the Thai foreign minister on the situation in Myanmar. He said there are indications that Myanmar wants to come out of its isolation. Datuk Abdullah has claimed that the Myanmar leader should realize that certain developments in that country are causing concern to the international community and these should be put right.

The minister was speaking to newsmen in Kuala Lumpur.

Relations Established With St. Kitts and Nevis

BK3107072092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0421 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, July 31 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia and the eastern Caribbean islands of St. Kitts and Nevis Thursday established formal diplomatic relations.

The ties, at non-resident ambassador level, arose out of the desire of the two countries to promote mutual understanding, friendship, and cooperation between them, a Malaysian Foreign Ministry statement said Friday.

The Government of Malaysia would like to express its confidence that this agreement will contribute to the development of mutually beneficial trade, economic, cultural, and other ties between the two countries, the statement added.

St. Kitts and Nevis, two islands with a combined area of 269 square km, have a population of about 47,000. The capital is Basseterre. A former British colony which became independent in 1983, the island nation is a member of the Commonwealth and the United Nations.

Joint Maritime Committee Set Up With Indonesia

BK0108074492 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Malaysia and Indonesia have established a joint mission to coordinate maritime enforcement activities in their waters. The maritime operations planning team under the auspices of the General Border Committee will handle activities related to drug smuggling, piracy, illegal immigrants, trespassing, safety of fishermen, water pollution, and vessels.

This was disclosed at a joint press conference by the director of the Malaysian Maritime Coordinating Center [MRCC], the National Security Council, Laksamana Pertama [First Vice Admiral] Datuk Tuan Hashim Tuan Mohamed and the Director of Operations and Naval Training Maritime Coordination, Bakokamla, of Indonesia Laksamana Pertama Al Sutejo in Kuala Lumpyur today. [sentence as heard]

The establishment of the team was agreed to at a meeting between the Malaysia Maritime Coordination Center and Bakokamla. Bakokamla has set up a similar machinery with the [word indistinct] maritime enforcement body but only to handle activities related to piracy.

Laksamana Pertama Tuan Hashim said with the setting up of (?teams), Malaysia and Indonesia would be able to coordinate and make joint planning and strategies to combat piracy and other unlawful activities in the Straits of Malacca. This will ensure that security in the Straits of Malacca could be implemented effectively.

According to him, incidents of piracy in the straits has decreased and from 1988 to 1991 only five cases were reported. Under the agreement each country will inform the other on patrols being carried out in its area.

Singapore

Armor Exercise With Brunei Armed Forces Ends

BK3107144892 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] The Singapore Armed Forces [SAF] welcomes more opportunities to hold military exercises with troops from Brunei. The parliamentary secretary for defense, Mr. Matthias Yao Chih, says both sides were geared towards planned joint exercises. He said both armed forces had increased contacts and joint exercises, and sent observers to each other's programs.

Mr. Yao was speaking to reporters at the end of first armor exercises between the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and SAF held in Singapore.

Cambodia

Hor Namhong Comments on Khmer Rouge Tactics

BK0208063392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Dear listeners, on 1 August, His Excellency [H.E.] Hor Namhong, State of Cambodia's foreign minister, granted an interview to correspondents of UPI, AFP, and REUTER.

First of all, Foreign Minister Hor Namhong informed these foreign correspondents of the deadlock of the implementation of the Paris agreement in Cambodia. H.E. Hor Namhong recalled that the Khmer Rouge have not changed their goal of seizing power through every means. This is why following the failure of the first phase of the Paris conference in 1989, the Khmer Rouge launched fierce offensives in the 1990-91 dry season in attempt to change the military situation on the field and to control a number of provinces in the northwest of the country. However, the Khmer Rouge did not achieve their goals. That was why the Khmer Rouge agreed to sign the Paris peace agreement.

However, it should be noted that the Khmer Rouge have not changed their strategic goal through the signing of the agreement. The Khmer Rouge have instead changed their tactics in such a way as to use the peace agreement to return to power. To achieve this goal, the Khmer Rouge have demanded that power be given to the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC]—that is, government power. The Khmer Rouge are using a long-term strategy to demand the dissolution of the Phnom Penh Government with the goal of acquiring participatory power during the transitional period. Thus, we will not fall into the Khmer Rouge trap. We are worried that people might fall into the Khmer Rouge trap.

H.E. the foreign minister stressed that we think that legitimate concern will be taken into consideration concerning the Khmer Rouge in implementing the peace agreement. The concerns of other parties will also be discussed. We are now in a stage of implementing the peace agreement, not at a negotiating stage of writing an agreement. As such, people are not pleased with the idea of accepting the Khmer Rouge's illegitimate demands.

H.E. the foreign minister continued: On behalf of the State of Cambodia side, I would like to stress that we cannot accept any deviation from the peace agreement. We cannot accept a step foward or do something outside the peace agreement.

When asked whether next year's election could proceed as planned, H.E. Hor Namhong replied: We will not allow the Khmer Rouge to play the game indefinitely. We will set a time frame for the Khmer Rouge because there is a schedule to be met from the present.

Concerning gradual measures to be taken against the Khmer Rouge, H.E. Hor Namhong replied: Recently there was a statement by the chairman of the Security Council—a resolution of the UN Security Council [UNSC]. However, the Khmer Rouge have not changed their activities. Therefore, in the next stage, sanctions will be imposed to force the Khmer Rouge to go along with what they have signed with the international community to do.

It is obvious that these sanctions cannot be 100 percent effective. I know that the Cambodian-Thai border is not like a border in Europe. However, the resolution by the UNSC should be implemented by all parties, or, at least, this resolution is a legal basis for imposing sanctions against the Khmer Rouge.

Concerning the isue of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia, H.E. Hor Namhong replied: This issue will be discussed when responsible political leaders have considered all aspects of the issue. We should solve this issue peacefully with Vietnam by fully respecting each country's independence and sovereignty based on equality.

Should we fight with Vietnam or other neighboring countries to solve the issue of these countries' residents in Cambodia? We should look to the future. This is what interests Cambodia, and not the past.

Akashi Refuses KR Demand on Phnom Penh Regime

BK0108133192 Hong Kong AFP in English 0607 GMT 1 Jul 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Aug 1 (AFP)—The top U.N. peacekeeper has told the Khmer Rouge [KR] it must begin complying with the peace plan immediately, while the Phnom Penh government said Saturday that guerrilla war may be inevitable.

A letter dated Friday from chief peacekeeper Yasushi Akashi to Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan said the United Nations will not entertain the radical faction's demands to dismantle the Phnom Penh government or to renegotiate the Cambodian peace plan ending the civil war.

All four Cambodian factions signed the accords last October, and so far the radical faction has refused to lay down its arms and comply.

"The existing administrative structures which you seek to abolish must in fact be retained," Akashi said in the letter.

The Khmer Rouge must "as a first step, grant U.N. personnel free, unhindered and immediate access to all zones controlled by you," the letter said without specifying what measures would be taken if the faction still refuses to comply.

Phnom Penh Foreign Minister Hor Namhong told reporters that the Khmer Rouge, even if they begin to comply with the peace accords, will only be stalling for time in order to launch a guerrilla war later.

"The Khmer Rouge will begin immediately their guerrilla war against the Cambodian people" after the elections scheduled for May 1993, he said.

"If they do implement the peace accords, they will begin their guerrilla war against the new government," he said. "But it's no difference for them to begin their guerrilla war now or in the future."

Hor Namhong said the remaining two resistance factions, FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), would be foolish not to join Phnom Penh forces against the Khmer Rouge.

"We will not require the presence of foreign troops to fight the Khmer Rouge," he said, only foreign expertise and supplies.

"I think we have the capability to make the Khmer Rouge like the communist parties of Malaysia and Thailand," he said.

"We would not like to do so, but the feeling is we will be forced by the Khmer Rouge themselves to do so because we will have no other choice," he said.

The communist guerrillas fighting in those two Southeast Asian countries surrendered in 1990 after suffering heavy loses at the hands of stronger government forces.

Hor Namhong once again called for sanctions to be applied against the Khmer Rouge, including freezing their foreign-held assets and stopping traffic of logs and gems over the border into Thailand.

The Khmer Rouge hold Pailin, a town rich in sapphires and rubies. The faction is thought to be making millions of dollars off the proceeds from gem mining and logging.

"We should not forget we are up against criminals of genocide who are trying to rule the country at any cost," Hor Namhong said.

Akashi Wants Japanese Troops Present by Oct

OW0208112092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1104 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Aug. 2 KYODO—The head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Yasushi Akashi, says he wants Japanese Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel in Cambodia by late October.

In a recent interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, Akashi said he would like SDF members to arrive by late October because UNTAC plans to have its staff in place around the country by mid-October when the wet season ends.

Akashi said he would like to have between 500 and 600 SDF members come to Cambodia.

Japan is reportedly considering sending engineering units to help repair roads and bridges damaged in 13 years of war.

"Nowhere is absolutely free of danger," Akashi said. "But I want them to do a thorough job."

Akashi said none of the Chinese and Thai military engineers engaged in road repairs and removal of land mines has been killed.

Asked about the Khmer Rouge faction's refusal to disarm and participate fully in the next stage of the U.N.-brokered peace process, Akashi said elections have to be held by May 1993 and voter registration will begin in October.

He said the four rival Cambodian factions have to surrender 70 percent of their arms by then and that the deadline is rapidly approaching.

Security Minister Rejects KPNLF Charge

BK0208052692 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0429 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 2—Minister of National Security Sin Song has rejected charges by Ieng Muli, SNC [Supreme National Council] member of KPNLF [Khmer People's National Liberation Front] faction, that the police force of the State of Cambodia threatened his safety and security.

In a letter to Yasushi Akashi, chief of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], Sin Song said, before that time the police force of the State of Cambodia had started investigating the robbery that took place in Kampot Province on July 23. The investigation was underway on July 25 when the delegation of Ieng Muli came to Prey Nop, where they were stopped and asked to be checked.

The request was rejected by the delegation for a long time before it was accepted, he said.

After the searches, the police forces found out that the delegation had two AK semi-automatic rifles and two pistols in their possession without any licence, and two persons did not have their names in the list of the delegation, he said.

The police force did not arrest any member of the delegation, and just asked them to make a written report at the "Prey Nop" police station, Sin Song said.

However, the delegation did not accept that request until a group of UNTAC personnel came and confiscated the two AK "rifles."

According to the agreement in Phatthaya and the declaration made by Prince Norodom Sihanouk on October 25, 1991, all security personnel can only be deployed and weapons can be used within private residences of the three factions and the SNC headquarters, and the government in place will be in charge of the security outside the compound.

On behalf of the Ministry of National Security I feel regrettable at the incident on July 25, 1992 at Prey Nop. However, I could not accept H.E. Ieng Muli's charges that we intended to put pressure on him, he said.

"In fact, he said, H.E. Ieng Muli has used the label of SNC to threaten the police whose duty is to maintain the people's security and the security of his own delegation.

Military Group Discusses Cease-Fire Violations

BK0208090392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] On 24 July officials of the Mixed Military Working Group [MMWG] from each Cambodian faction and UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] held a meeting under the chairmanship of UNTAC commander General John Sanderson. Army representatives of all Cambodian factions who attended the meeting were Gen. Ke Kimyan, first deputy defense minister of the State of Cambodia [SOC], chief of the General Political Department, and chairman of the Military Coordination Commission with the United Nations, representing the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] and the SOC faction; Gen. Pan Thai, military representative of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front; and Lieutenant Gen. Kruoch Yoeum, military representative of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] faction. The representative of the Khmer Rouge faction was not present at the meeting.

The 24 July meeting mainly covered the CPAF's proposal that a number of soldiers be allowed to temporarily return to civilian life, and examined the military situation and some incidents in the implementation of the Paris agreement in Cambodia.

Before discussing the CPAF's proposal on permitting a number of officers and rank and file to temporarily return to civilian life, Gen. Sanderson, UNTAC commander and chairman of the meeting, noted some aspects of the military situation concerning the implementation of the Paris agreement in Cambodia, particularly cease-fire violations and various incidents of banditry and sabotage. On this topic, the general stressed that he had difficulty differentiating the cease-fire violations from the acts of banditry. Sometimes, the bandits were dressed as soldiers when they robbed the people, he said. He also pointed out that the Khmer Rouge are now launching their activities from the hill of Kulen in Preah Vihear Province into Kompong Thom along Route 12. They are putting pressure on a number of localities in Siem Reap Province bordering on Preah Vihear. In these areas, the CPAF came under heavy artillery attacks and many soldiers were blown up by mines. At the same time, the Khmer Rouge are also intensifying their activities in the zones under the control of the Liberal Democratic Party and the FUNCINPEC. In the north many robberies and crimes have been reported. In this connection, he expressed concern over the severity of past criminal acts, including attacks on Vietnamese civilians, and the instability in the regions east of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, west of Preah Vihear Province, and north of Kompong Thom Province where frequent cease-fire violations have been reported.

On the same occasion, an UNTAC officer raised the issue of cease-fire violations by the Khmer Rouge faction and some acts of banditry, such as robberies, the imposition of protection money on private cars, cattle rustling, and sabotage acts which mostly take place on Route 12, Route 69, and National Highway 4, road portions between Kratie and Stung Treng and between Phnom Penh and Kompong Cham, and along regional routes in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, Kompong Thom, Preah Vihear, and other provinces.

To shed more light on the above question, Gen. Ke Kimyan, representative of the CPAF, said that the two major issues—the armed violations and the incidents of banditry and sabotage caused by the Khmer Rouge—are the manifestation of their long-standing maneuvers. The general also stressed that the armed violations have so far been committed by the Khmer Rouge faction alone despite the fact that the SOC faction has demonstrated military restraint in its strict compliance with the Paris agreement. Especially when the CPAF as well as the Cambodian people show no desire to lengthen the war, which can only obstruct the peace process in Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge continue to violate the cease-fire more frequently and savagely. This is part of their trick to pull a faction that is victim of violations into a war with another faction which refuses to respect and implement the agreement. When that takes place, national and international opinion will wrongly believe that both the SOC faction and the faction of Democratic Kampuchea—and not just the latter alone—do not respect the Paris agreement.

In this connection, Gen. Ke Kimyan asked UNTAC whether the SOC is considered to have violated the Khmer Rouge faction if it fights back and tries to recapture the zones taken from it by force by the Khmer Rouge. If the SOC is not allowed to fight and take back the lost territory, then what action will UNTAC take? This issue left without a clear definition will remain a complex question, otherwise the SOC faction will be mistaken as the one that is violating the cease-fire agreement along with the Khmer Rouge faction.

Concerning the phenomena stemming from the acts of banditry and sabotage, Gen. Ke Kimyan clearly underlined that the overall situation since the start of the cease-fire's second phase was marked by a number of incidents on National Highways 2, 3, and 4, Routes 69 and 12, the portion of National Highway 6 between Phnom Penh and Kompong Thom, and the road portion between Kratie and Stung Treng and in a number of remote regions, communes, and villages where a constant armed pressure by the Khmer Rouge was observed. This is no accident, he said. At present, such pressure has become even more serious and savage. In particular, when UNTAC was still UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia] many of its helicopters came under repeated sniper fire. What is the cause of such a phenomenon? On this question, the general stressed that there were two major aspects: First, there are the acts of banditry, and second, the developments resulting from the Khmer Rouge maneuvers. In order to resolve this problem, Gen. Ke Kimyan proposed two measures: First, UNTAC should take drastic steps against any faction that refuses to implement the agreement and continues to complicate the situation; second, wherever the incidents take place, UNTAC should cooperate with the local administration in order to clear them up or should send forces to conduct an investigation in that area.

After discussing in detail the contents of the meeting, the participants voiced agreement with the CPAF's proposal on permitting some officers and rank and file to temporarily return to civilian life. In conclusion, Gen. John Sanderson and CPAF's representative Gen. Ke Kimyan signed an agreement permitting the temporary dissolution of the forces.

Commentary Urges Removal of Phnom Penh Leaders

BK0208035092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Unattributed commentary: "It Is Time To Pressure the Vietnamese Aggressors and the Phnom Penh Puppets To Implement the Paris Agreement"]

[Text] The Cambodian national resistance forces, particularly the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], have made successive proposals with the aim of promoting the Paris agreement, particularly advancing the implementation of the cease-fire's second phase.

On 12 July 1992, the PDK made another proposal of which here is the essence:

1. The Supreme National Council [SNC] plays the role of the sole source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period; there is no other government.

2. The SNC joins in the comprehensive implementation the Paris agreement and in the verification that all kinds of Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia and in the control of the dissolution of all four Cambodian parties' armies, 70 percent first, and then 100 percent.

Along with this, the PDK has also proposed the following appropriate measures:

1. As long as the puppets in Phnom Penh are willing to gradually do away, within four weeks, with the positions of president, assembly chairman, prime minister, deputy prime minister, minister, and deputy minister, the PDK will be willing to gradually assemble troops for inspection and disarming by the United Nations within four weeks.

2. Set up an SNC consultative committee within the existing government structure and within the police force of all Cambodian parties.

Concerning this proposal, national and international opinions generally agree that this is a reasonable proposal in accordance with the Paris agreement and this proposal should be discussed. However, the Vietnamese aggressors have ordered their puppet named Hor Namhong to immediately reject this proposal. People ask this question: Why did this puppet of the Vietnamese aggressors immediately reject this? Here is the answer:

1. As a matter of fact, the Vietnamese aggressors do not need to solve the problem so that Cambodia has peace, national union, and sovereignty.

2. The truth is that the puppets of the Vietnamese aggressors do not want national reconciliation and union; they need to maintain their positions and roles as Vietnam's lackeys to continue serving the Vietnamese aggressors' policy, collaborating with Vietnam to continue massacring the Cambodian people, and plundering people's property and selling off various state property to amass dollars to line their own pockets.

This is why the puppet leaders and traitors to the nation and people have rejected and created obstacles to hinder the implementation of the cease-fire's second phase. They will continue to do so to prevent a solution to the issue of Vietnam's aggression against Cambodia.

Therefore, nothing can be solved with the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets and out-and-out lackeys. The best way is to unite and pressure the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets and lackeys to implement the real essence of the Paris agreement.

Khmer Rouge Soldiers Said Defecting to UN

BK3107102492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0815 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, July 31 (AFP)—Guerrillas defecting from Cambodia's radical Khmer Rouge faction are turning themselves in to U.N. peacekeepers and asking for protection, a U.N. spokesman said Friday.

Nearly 30 Khmer Rouge guerrillas have made contact with U.N. officials in the last few weeks, spokesman Eric Falt said.

"They are tired of fighting and want peace. They claim to be poorly fed and poorly paid," he said. "Their utmost desire is to be reunited with their families."

A group of 21 defectors first turned themselves into Phnom Penh government forces and were subsequently put under U.N. protection, Falt said, without specifying in which province the defections occurred.

Single guerrillas have turned themselves in and asked for protection in Kompong Speu, Kompong Cham, Kampot, Siem Reap and Battambang provinces, he said.
lleged SRV Soldiers

BK0108014692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 31 Jul 92

["Brief news feature"]

[Text] On 21 July, the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] ambushed a military truck of the Vietnamese aggressor troops with 12 Vietnamese soldiers and 20 puppet troops on it on National Route 4 near Treng Trayoeng [location not further specified; possibly in Battambang Province]. As a result, the NADK completey destroyed the Vietnamese truck, killing two on the spot, and capturing two Vietnamese soldiers. The remaining troops fled for their lives; a number of them were wounded. The two Vietnamese soldiers we captured wore the uniforms of the puppet troops and cannot speak Cambodian.

Reports from Kompong Thom town say that on 18 July, about 300 Cambodian soldiers in the 5th Division stationed on Route 12 battlefield caused confusion all over Kompong Thom town. They staged a demonstration and revolt because their salaries were paid to them in riel currency by Hun Sen and Chea Sim; they have not been paid for five months. These 300 soldiers have been hungry on the battlefield of death on Route 12 for a long time; they expressed their rage against the puppet leaders who paid them with riel banknotes that nobody uses any longer. Thus, these 300 soldiers took rice and other foodstuffs from shops and shouted: Go get the money still in circulation from Hun Sen and Chea Sim. They also shouted: We will return to get rice and foodstuffs; go and get the money still in circulation from Hun Sen and Chea Sim.

Editorial Praises People's Party Leadership

BK3107035192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 29 Jul 92

[PRACHEACHON editorial: "The Cambodian People's Party Sides With the People and Protects Their Interests"; date not given]

[Text] The extraordinary congress of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] was held in the warmest atmosphere of joy, solidarity, and unity. The attendance by delegates from party committees at departments and offices in the 21 provinces and cities; representatives from various party chapters; Cambodian nationals from Australia, France, Belgium, and Singapore; and a great many observers and national reporters made the caucus even more solemn. The conference unanimously valued the situation concerning the implementation of the Paris accord over the past nine months; assessed the situation in the period to come; amended the party's statute; changed the party's logo; and conducted a democratic selection of new members of the party's Standing Committee to further comply with the execution of the peace accord in this historic phase of national reunification.

The entire congress was proud of the high convictions of the CPP, which has, at all times, been staying with the people and sharing in the latter's troubles as well as joys. The party is courageous, intelligent, and self-reliant at the helm of the national movement and has achieved one success after the other, including those in salvaging the Cambodian nation and people from the genocidal Pol Pot regime and in defending the nation's social gains. Currently, the party is struggling to lead the nation and people toward the shore of genuine security and peace and happiness.

The implementation of the Paris accord during the past nine months reflected the party's streamlined political and socioeconomic program and its implementation of free-market economy ensuring the country's total independence and sovereignty in conformity with the prevailing tendency and the aspiration of the Cambodian people.

For nine months—despite hostile forces' poisonous maneuvers; the Khmer Rouge's open and gross violations of the accord that they have signed; and the other parties' energetic efforts in carrying out propaganda to deceive public opinion on the presence of Vietnamese troops and demand the dissolution of the government of the State of Cambodia [SOC], inciting terrorism, and carrying out economic sabotage to kindle chaos to impair good social order with the intent to create obstacles to the peace implementation process—the CPP and the SOC Government have, all the same, been able to maintain political, military, and diplomatic predominance. They are currently cooperating with the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, called UNTAC, in furthering the accord's implementation with the most self-restrained patience.

On top of the adverse consequences ensuing from the two-decade war and recent natural calamities and destructions caused by the Khmer Rouge's violations, the SOC's commitment to helping solve the problems of over 300,000 compatriots repatriated from the Royal Kingdom of Thailand constitutes another burden for the SOC. That being the case, the preponderance of the structure of the incumbent government is imperatively needed and this is in accordance with the accord and also a condition for guaranteeing internal stability of the Cambodian society to bring the implementation of the peace accord to a successful completion.

At this hottest and most crucial stage, to achieve peace and national reunification and development, we should in no way be satisfied with the successes and lose vigilance and sense of responsibility since the opposing forces are seeking, in all circumstances, every possible way to weaken the CPP and decimate the influence of our government for the purpose of returning the genocidal Pol Pot regime to Cambodia. Our party is the only force against the genocidal regime and will be the latter's future competitor.

The CPP and the SOC Government always support the task of national reunification of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, father of the nation, Cambodian head of state, chairman of the Supreme National Council, and father of national reunification. We are resolved to continue the Sangkum Reas Niyum political line, which is a correct and durable approach to lead Cambodia toward eternal security and peace and progress and prosperity.

The CPP, the SOC Government, and the Cambodian people pledge to earnestly and sincerely implement the Paris accord and closely cooperate with UNTAC to ensure peace, stability, and social order and to guarantee the normalcy of social life in order to hold general elections scheduled for 1993. We appeal to all the Cambodian parties to realistically and sincerely implement the accord but not to create impediments to the accord and distort the spirit of the accord to prolong the sufferings of our people. The CPP, the core of great national solidarity and unity, continues to lead the mass movement to successfully implement its political program, which is the most patriotic one for restoring national independence and defending the motherland's territorial sovereignty to promote the people's happiness, develop social structure, and enhance peace and friendship with all the countries in the world.

We ardently hope that, with steadfast support from the people and international community, the peace process in Cambodia would be irrevocable.

Indonesia

ASEAN Ministers' Views on Spratlys Hailed

BK0208132392 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 24 Jul 92 p 4

[Editorial: "ASEAN Wisely Understands the Implications and Complications of the Spratly Issue"]

[Text] We have often heard people praising the Asia-Pacific as a stable region with rapid economic growth. The region is viewed as one with a bright future, namely, a region that will make great progress in the 21st century and will play a major role in regional and global affairs.

Within the vast territory of the Asia-Pacific region, East Asia and Southeast Asia have played an important role. Rapid economic growth took place first in East Asia, not only in Japan, but also in South Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. Economic progress in those industrialized countries has also helped activate the process of democratization. However, there is still the unresolved issue between North Korea and South Korea in East Asia.

While ASEAN is praised for its efforts to maintain security in Southeast Asia, it has also been credited for close regional cooperation among its member countries—Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Brunei, and Indonesia, as well as Papua New Guinea as an observer. At the recent ASEAN ministerial meeting in Manila, Vietnam and Laos were also granted observer status.

Southeast Asia has experienced rapid economic growth as well and other ASEAN countries are expected to follow the example of Singapore which has become a newly industrialized country.

ASEAN has been successful in creating and maintaining security in Southeast Asia. There are at least three factors behind this success. Bilateral relations among ASEAN countries have been fostered at the top level. ASEAN has held periodic meetings at the level of senior officials, foreign ministers, and heads of state. Regional cooperation among ASEAN countries has also managed to formulate new doctrines and produced several accords. All these contribute to the consolidation of ASEAN cooperation. Thanks to this spirit of cooperation, the seeds of conflict among fellow ASEAN members have been neutralized and never allowed to grow. With the same spirit and mechanism, ASEAN has also made its contribution to the peaceful solution to the Cambodian conflict.

Will ASEAN continue to safeguard security and stability in the region? ASEAN foreign ministers have issued a joint communique on the South China Sea at their recent meeting in Manila. The oil-rich Spratly islands are claimed by several ASEAN countries, namely Malaysia, the Philippines, and Brunei, as well as non-ASEAN countries, namely Vietnam, the PRC, and Taiwan. The PRC and Vietnam also lay claim to the Paracel islands.

The overlapping claims on the Spratly Islands have recently turned into an open dispute following a report that the PRC has intensified oil exploration in the disputed area. In this connection, Vietnam has issued a strong reaction. This is the reason why the ASEAN foreign ministers have decided to issue a separate declaration on the South China Sea, which basically states that any conflict arising from the Spratly dispute must be solved through negotiations and never by military means. In addition, Indonesia also took the initiative to host an informal meeting on the South China Sea aimed at gathering relevant data and cultivating mutual understanding among claimants of the Spratlys.

The Spratlys will probably become a test-case for ASEAN and other countries in the region in regard to whether they can solve the dispute through negotiations. We share Foreign Minister Ali Alatas' remarks which take a serious view of the issue and pay special attention to its further development and solution.

There are two reasons why we must take a serious view of the Spratly issue. First, a new power structure configuration is forming in this region. While the U.S. presence is still needed, Japan is expected to play a clearer role and the PRC will develop its own political posture. Past history of the two Asian giants has raised many questions and fears among the rest of Asia.

Slowly but surely India will also play its role in the new power configuration. Past history shows that India has always maintained peaceful relations with Southeast Asian countries, but its immediate neighbors view India as having hegemonic designs. Against this background, it will be quite tragic if the Spratly issue becomes a casus belli of hostilities in our region.

There is another reason why any conflict in the Spratlys must be averted and solved through peaceful means. A distressing trend now prevalent in many regions is the outbreak of new conflicts due to ethnic disharmony. Such ethnic-based conflicts are now raging in the former East European countries and in Afghanistan. We are quite aware that Asia, including Southeast Asia, has a diverse ethnic background and this may lead to a possible outbreak of ethnic disputes. From our own and Yugoslavia's experience, we are aware of the serious impact of any ethnic conflict on nations with multiethnic backgrounds and on international relations.

In view of the second reason, namely possible ethnic-based conflicts, we want to remind the public of the potential causes of conflicts in the future, which keep changing from one era to the next. For instance, we have passed through an era when nationalism was a source of conflict where one nation clashed with another. Nationalism was also a source of conflict in the aftermath of World War II up until a few years ago. That period of time was known as the cold war era. But a new source of conflict in the form of economic rivalry and trade friction has also appeared. The cold war era has ended and there is hope for peace, disarmament, and allocation of funds for the progress and welfare of the public. The new era is also fraught with threats, including the threat of ethnic conflicts, such as those now taking place in Somalia and Ethiopia.

Therefore, we rejoice in the fact that the ASEAN foreign ministers have wisely understood the implication and complication of the Spratly issue and made early efforts to prevent it from becoming an open conflict.

Death of New Zealander in Dili Riot Explained

BK3107142592 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Indonesia has responded to New Zealand's request for an explanation of the death of its citizen, Kamal Bamadhaj, in the November 1991 Dili incident.

Speaking to reporters in Wellington today, New Zealand Foreign Minister Don McKinnon said that the Dili incident reflected neither the Indonesian Government's nor the

Indonesian Armed Forces Command policy or orders. The Indonesian Government expressed its regret over the incident. Mr. McKinnon reiterated that the Indonesian Government stated that spontaneous and unauthorized shooting had occurred at the demonstration in Dili, and regrettably, casualties and deaths had resulted.

McKinnon said he received a formal explanation from the Indonesian Government on the Dili incident during his recent discussion in Manila with Foreign Minister Ali Alatas.

Commander Announces Irian Jaya Rebel's Surrender

BK0208154592 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] David Jebleb, a leader of the OPM [Free Papua Movement] in Irian Jaya has surrendered to the authorities at a military post at (Yuruk) village, Jayapura District. Speaking after a ceremony to mark the founding anniversary of the Trikora Eighth Regional Military Command in Jayapura, regional commander Major General Abinowo said the OPM leader had surrendered to the authorities along with his wife and seven children.

When he surrendered to the authorities, David Jebleb, who installed himself as area commander in charge of (Pupruk), (Yuruk), (Wembi), and (Tambrasutra) villages in Papua New Guinea, was not accompanied by any followers and carried no weapons. Maj. Gen. Abinowo said the surrender of the OPM leader showed the success of the armed forces' territorial and intelligence operations. The surrender of David Jebleb is likely to be followed by the surrender of other OPM leaders and followers who are still roaming the jungles.

Laos

Increase in Foreign Investment Viewed

BK3007072592 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 10-11 Jul 92

[Feature in two installments by unidentified correspondent: "Current Foreign Investment in the Lao People's Democratic Republic"]

[10 Jul p 2]

[Text] In the past three or four years in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, our party and state have implemented a market economy policy and stepped up cooperation with many foreign countries. This is to develop and boost production in the various fields and to gradually allow our national economy to strengthen continually for the well-being of our people and the prosperity of our country.

Since 1988, as a result of the policy, investors from 24 countries have invested in some 200 projects at a total cost of nearly U.S. $360 million. In the first half of 1992 alone, foreign investors have invested some U.S. $77 million in 49 projects.

With this development, some local and foreign observers have said that foreign investment in our country is increasing with every passing day. They noted that this is a good sign for Laos, which is an underdeveloped and landlocked country with limited transportation and communications facilities, but blessed with abundant natural resources. Such comments are quite true, as the fact is that within just three or four years, foreign businessmen have invested in more than 200 projects. Most of the investors are from Thailand, France, the United States, China, Vietnam, Russia, Australia, Canada, Taiwan, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Japan, Sweden, Singapore, Denmark, Portugal, and Macau. These projects are in the form of contract investment businesses, joint ventures, and unilateral enterprises. They can be classified into the various important businesses: import and export, industry and handicrafts, garments for export, consultancy, hotel and tourism, wooden and rattan products, mining, oil exploration, agriculture, construction, repair, maintenance, transport, banking, aviation, and other enterprises.

[11 Jul pp 2, 3]

[Text] In attracting these foreign investors to our country, our government and all services concerned have made numerous efforts to create favorable conditions and gradually consolidate and upgrade our organizational apparatus, personnel, various organizations needed for business management and marketing, and many laws. In the beginning, many foreign investors complained that they would not be able to invest here without the enforcement of certain laws to ensure their investment security.

To solve this problem, in the last stage of preparations to promulgate the Constitution, the Lao Government authorities have enacted many laws, such as the civil law, the criminal law, the criminal proceeding law, the court law, the judiciary institute law, the ownership law, the inheritance law, the contractual obligation law, the court fees law, and the state banking organization law. Later, the insurance law, the accountancy system law, the enterprise law, and the labor law were also added.

With the above-mentioned relentless efforts of the government and agencies concerned and various measures laid out by them, foreign investment in our country thus began to take shape and has unquestionably brought about good results to the host country. Whatsoever, there have been various comments on this matter. Naturally, it is a common practice for the people of various levels who are owners of the country to have concerns over the fate of the nation. The majority of the public says that investments made by foreigners in our country have so far not yet conformed with the concept of the national policy and the socioeconomic objectives of our country. The hidden potential of our country has not yet been exploited. To put it another way, we want the kind of foreign investment in Laos that serves as a basis for our country's economic expansion but, we would say, there has never really been such investment. At present, foreign investors have greatly invested in a total of more than 200 projects in our country, but most of them deal with business management and are small-scale and short-term profit-making ventures. Sometimes there were opportunistic brokers who took advantage of Laos' open-door policy for foreign investment. Thinking that the Lao people are not eager to do business, they therefore wanted to take advantage of them with simple tricks. The Lao Pacific Company is an example of this.

Out of the real conditions mentioned above, a question emerges: How did all this happen? Regarding this, a number of people offered their views that major foreign investors do not want to invest in Laos because of a lack of convenience in transportation. Suppose a big cement plant is established in the central region of Laos. It would be difficult to transport the cement products to customers in the northern and southern regions. If the products are sent to those regions, the cost of transportation would render prices prohibitive, even higher than the prices on the same goods imported from other countries. If the products are exported to neighboring countries, the prices and the quality of the products will be questionable.

Other kinds of factories also face problems. Despite cheap labor, there is a problem of workers lacking quality and skill. If foreign workers and technicians are to be hired for goods production, then goods prices will rise dramatically, although domestic raw materials are cheap. If so, Lao people may not be able to afford to buy them, and it would be even harder to export such goods to other countries.

Laos has no access to the sea and even worse, transportation routes are insufficient and cannot be guaranteed safe. However, some people disagree with this idea. They say many other countries have no access to the sea either, such as countries in central Europe, but they still are able to achieve national development.

The difference and exchange of opinions on foreign investment in Laos may lead to positive results. A number of people commented that one of the reasons major foreign investors do not want to invest here is that our publicity to attract foreign investment is still insufficient and not up to world standard. Another reason is that our protection for business management is still not efficient and is too bureaucratic, thus causing delays for business contacts. At the same time the rules and regulations and legal procedures concerning investment and investment protection are not yet fully integrated. This causes difficulties for those who make contacts with authorities. For example, an investor signs a contract with a government authority and then the authority moves to another place. Organizational structures can change, such as changing from a state to a private organization. The investor who faces such problems does not know what to do.

These are only the different views of various groups of people. Some may not really correspond with the actual situation. However, all this is meant to present various opinions aimed at finding a correct solution to attract foreign investment to steadily develop our country.

Cabinet Decision Publicized at Ministry Meeting

BK3107084492 Vientiane KPL in English 0914 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Vientiane, July 30 (KPL)—The Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Finance yesterday morning held here a lecture to republicize Council of Ministers Decision 47 concerning enterprise account activities and financial contributions. The move was aimed at strengthening the implementation of this decision among different enterprises and companies.

Financial officials from ministries and Vientiane municipal services and representatives from businesses attended the lecture.

The lecture had the objective to publicize the essence of the law on enterprise account and prime minister's decree on its implementation, and to mobilize businesses to properly implement these law and decree as well as the regulations concerning financial contributions based on the correct handling of their accounts and books according to the relevant law.

In addition, the effort was to draw the participants' attention to practical ways in keeping the overal economic activities of different economic sectors under control at both micro and macro-economic levels in accordance with the regulations in force. This was to ensure that all the economic sectors step up their sense of obligations as specified in official documents, especially in terms of accounting, book keeping, and payment of contributions.

Thais Asked To Help Suppress Ethnic Resistance

BK0108020392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Aug 92 p A3

[By Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[Text] Laos has called for increased Thai-Lao cooperation to suppress the anti-Pathet Lao ethnic resistance.

The cooperation includes tougher restrictions on exiled Hmong wishing to travel to and in Thailand.

Vientiane wants Thailand to strengthen its screening of visa applications from exiled and ethnic Laotians living in third countries of resettlement.

It is also seeking Thai cooperation in patrolling the common border to combat the resistance movement.

In an interview this week, Laotian Ambassador Bounkeut Sangsomsak praised Thailand for the arrest in early July of seven ethnic Hmong hilltribers suspected of being members of the anti-communist resistance.

The resistance movement has caused mistrust and a lack of confidence between the two countries for more than 15 years, he said.

The two countries should resolve the problem and both sides have been consulting each other at government and military levels, the envoy said.

However, other stringent measures should be implemented to curb and suppress the resistance's "subversive" anti-governemnt activities, he said.

Vientiane wants Thailand to stringently screen visa requests from Laotians and ethnic Hmong living in third countries of resettlement.

It wants Thailand to toughen immigration procedures for those wishing to travel to Thailand.

They should also be restricted in their travel to the border area, he said.

Vientiane also wished to see incerased Thai patrols along the common border to suppress the resistance's movements and activities.

"If both sides could strengthen their cooperation and the exchange of information, then the suppression would be very effective," Bounkeut said.

Thai government officials said Thailand already has special screening measures regarding visa aplications by exiled Laotians and other former Indochinese refugees who have been resettled in foreign countries.

Thai embassies throughout the world have a list of blacklisted people who are not to be granted visas, they said.

However, it is difficult to screen and control those who are not blacklisted but are suspected supporters or members of anti-government dissident groups, they said.

"The Foreign Ministry has instructed its embassies worldwide to thoroughly check the visa applicants against the list of blacklisted people which also includes (resistance leader) Vang Pao and his follower," said a foreign ministry official.

Visas are given only to already naturalized citizens of the countries of resettlement who hold legal passports of those countries, one official said.

Such applicants are gtanted only temporary visas, he said.

Another Thai government official, who requested anonymity, admitted some members of the resistance group members might be able to pass the screening process as ethnic hilltribes often shared the same names.

Most of the exiled Hmong apply for visas to visit family members or relatives who are still refugees in several Laotian boder camps in Thailand, he said.

The official said Thailand has often urged Vientiane to repatriate all refugees from Thailand.

This was cited as one means of "cutting off all support and (financial and material) sources" from dissident Hmong overseas to subversive elements here.

Government officials said it wil be difficult for Thailand to return the seven suspect Hmong to Laos because some are already naturalized American citizens.

And the United States would certainly object to their repatriation to Laos.

Thailand will prosectue them under Thai law and deport them, the officials said.

Bounkeut said Laos wanted Thailand to return the alleged Laotian Hmongs to Vientiane for prosecution.

But it would not raise the issue of repatriation for fear of hampering bilateral cooperation to suppress the anti-Pathet Lao insurgency.

More Refugees From Thailand Repatriated to Bokeo

BK0108103492 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Vientiane, August 1 (KPL)—A welcome ceremony took place in the northern Bokeo Province in the middle of this month for 285 Lao refugees from Thailand.

Among the repatriates include 38 natives of Bokeo, 21 of Oudomsai Province, 16 of Luang Namtha [Province], 41 of Luang Prabang [Province], and 169 of Sayaboury [Province]. The returnees have already reached their homes.

They have now settled at two villages, Saisomboun in Nam Pouk area, Houai Sai town and Bong Ton Pheung District, arranged for repatriates by the provincial administration. [sentence as received]

This was the third batch of repatriates Bokeo has received this year totalling 647 of them. 180 were natives of Bokeo and the rest were of northern provinces.

Vientiane Reception Marks Chinese Army Day

BK0308111892 Vientiane KPL in English 0902 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Vientiane, August 3 (KPL)—The Chinese military attache in Vientiane on July 31 hosted here a reception to mark the 65th founding anniversary of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

Attending the reception were, among others, National Defence Minister Choummali Sai-gnason, standing members of the Laos-China Friendship Association Committee, and senior Lao military and police officers.

The Lao national defence minister, while expressing his pleasure on the occasion, proposed a toast to the advancement of the Chinese People's Liberation Army along the lines adopted by the Communist Party of China. He also wished that the solidarity and friendship between the armies of the two countries be ever lasting.

Philippines

Police To Charge U.S. Servicemen

HK0108082992 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] The Philippine National Police will charge six [number as heard] U.S. soldiers with mauling Filipino farmers on 23 July. To be sued are W.A. Hahn, Romulo Reyes, Jaime Douche, David Michael, and Clarin David. It was learned that the foreigners mauled Raul Evangelista, Jose Vazquez, Rolando Rivera, Nicanor Sinsin, and the Umali family—Lazaro, Remy, Willy, and Juanito, all Filipino farmers. The U.S. servicemen allegedly also burned their huts. The victims complained of having been mauled by the Americans after they were accused of entering the military base. Police investigation showed, however, that the victims were about 500-1,000 meters away from the reserved area.

Ramos Invites Taiwanese Investors

HK0308051692 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0232 GMT 03 Aug 92

[Speech by President Fidel V. Ramos to the Philippine-Chinese Business Council and Chinese-Philippine Business Council at the Manila Inter-Continental Hotel, Makati—live; in English]

[Text] The distinguished chairman of this joint Philippine-Chinese Business Council and Chinese-Philippine Business Council meeting, delegates and guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I am greatly pleased to be asked to the seventh joint meeting of your two business councils, which I understand is the first to be held here after two failed attempts. The third time is lucky. And as we Filipinos say: The guest is most welcome for who we have waited the longest. [applause].

You really could not have come at a better time, for we have just inaugurated a new administration, and we are only to eager to brief our foreign business friends on what we here are trying to achieve. There is one thing you can count on: We Filipinos are through seeking easy answers or quick fixes for our problems. And for those investors seeking to get in on the ground floor of East Asia's next economic miracle, the Philippines, we say, the time is now and the place is right here.

My government's first concern is to restore civic order, for without stability our economy cannot return to growth. The free and orderly election we have just come through confirms our political maturity and proves the vigor of the democracy we have won through our People Power Revolution six years ago.

Today, 33 days into my presidency, the Executive decision-making system is in place. I have reached a comfortable working relationship with Congress. My vice president I have put in charge of a Presidential Anti-Crime Commission with unprecedented powers and my full backing. Our determined campaign to reduce street crime and more serious offenses is starting to pay off. I have also asked Congress to restore the death penalty for heinous crimes and to double the penalties for law enforcers and soldiers who commit criminal acts. I have offered a wide-ranging amnesty to the New People's Army insurgents, the Muslim separatists, and the handful of the military rebels remaining.

These steps we have taken to show we are willing to walk the extra mile for peace, just as we are willing, if our peace initiative should fail, to continue the job of rooting them out completely from national society. We have also taken responsibility for our external security, with all that decision entails in terms of our determination to raise the capability of the Armed Forces to defend our borders.

As I assured our ASEAN partners in Manila two weeks ago, we Filipinos will always be responsible partners, not a burden to our neighbors in the Asian community. We are prepared to play an effective role, considering our strategic geographical position in the Asia-Pacific region, and to account for ourselves responsibly in every way.

My government's other priority is to return the economy to growth. We are setting in motion policies to deregulate the economy and get government out of business, to set the entrepreneurs free from the apron strings of the state. We shall also dismantle the bulk of our protectionist barriers and set a more realistic exchange rate, to strengthen our linkages with the world economy and force our industries towards greater efficiency, better quality, and lower costs.

We have been able to keep down inflation to a single digit, and we will continue to do so as part of an austere monetary program that includes bringing down the current regime of high interest rates. The building of essential infrastructure—highways, bridges, airports, sea ports, power plants, [digresses] you can see how fast we responded this morning when the brownout came, and we intend to solve that problem on a permanent basis with your help, ladies and gentlemen of this conference, [goes back to speech] irrigation systems and telecommunications networks—we will push aggressively to create jobs in the countryside and to give investors proof of our resolve to provide private enterprise a solid foundation for growth.

In all of these programs, there will be plenty of room for investment initiatives through joint ventures and build-operate-and- transfer and similar schemes.

We are accompanying all these economic initiatives with administrative reforms to professionalize the civil service and to optimize the efficiency of the entire machinery of government. We are also improving the overall effort to increase revenue collection, crack down on tax evasion and make the major share of tax support fall on those who can best carry it. The proceeds from increased revenue collections we will invest in the masses of our people in nutrition and health care, basic education and in training our workers in the technical skills that modern industry demands.

Our hopes for substantial self-reliance in the energy sector have just been lifted by the discovery and confirmation of two extensive oil and natural gas fields in the waters off Palawan, the first of them already pumping 18,000 barrels of crude oil per day. We are restoring the Department of Energy to manage all our energy programs. Like all other economic policies, we are setting down on energy development, these programs will be environment friendly. To provide even more attractive incentives under our new Foreign Investments Law, I have asked Congress to enact a new package of measures to make foreign investors and tourists completely comfortable and secure in our country. I expect you to be thoroughly updated by the end of your conference.

Let me reiterate our economic vision for the Philippines as a large place for all investors from among friends and neighbors.

The alleviation and extirpation of mass poverty, which we are determined to do, will tremendously increase the attractiveness of our domestic market in the years to come.

As the Philippines becomes more industrialized during my term, we foresee our country becoming a much more stable, more secure, and more prosperous neighbor and trading partner.

This is the first opportunity I have had as president to address foreign businessmen and potential investors. I am delighted and honored that half of my audience today are businessmen from our closest northern neighbors.

You have in the past played an important role in the progress and development of the Philippines. Today, our country's trade with you remains strong and growing. Your investments too have been increasing over the last few years. Investments that have provided significant contributions to our economy.

Now is the time to intensify our joint efforts. Now is the time to put aside our hesitancy of the past. Now is the time to accelerate the tempo of investment, trade, and tourism.

The forming of new economic blocs in western Europe and in North America, especially, compel us, who come from this region, to forge closer economic and people-to-people relations with each other. After all, the peoples in this region have been doing business with one another for at least one thousand years, as the historical records attest, in a climate of mutual trust.

Partly because of this shared historical experience, the assimilation of migrant Chinese over the centuries has proceeded faster in the Philippines than in many other parts of the world. From the earliest times, they have identified themselves without reservation with the native Filipinos.

For instance, the family of our national hero, Jose Rizal, changed its registration in the taxpayers' list to indio, or native, around 1800, after four generations in the Chinese mestizo [half-breed] role. I think that we should know that our national hero, Jose Rizal, had very distinguished Chinese forebears. Thanks to this historical contacts, elements of the Chinese entrepreneurial traditions have become embedded in the matrix of Filipino culture. This tradition is believed, likewise, to be largely responsible for the tremendous upsurge in the development of east Asian nations.

It is to the same Confucian tradition, to this Chinese ethic of hard-work, self-reliance, frugality, respect for authority, thoroughness, discipline, and concern for the family, that we, ourselves, in the Philippines look in our new effort to pull ourselves up to the level of our neighbors. We have come to realize that as in East Asia, national strength can come only from a powerful sense of solidarity and cooperation. My dear friends, I share the hopes of my countrymen that your meeting will resolve in firm commitments for investments and joint-undertakings.

I welcome you to the new, favorable business environment in the Philippines. Here, you can be sure there will be no discrimination, no undue interference from government in your business doings.

I invite you to join us in moving this country forward towards growth and development. I assure you that in this journey that you will take with us, you will not be disappointed in the returns.

Not only will investing in the Philippines today be good business; it will also be good neighbor policy. For we shall always remember that when we most needed a helping hand, you were there with your friendship, support, and assistance. Thank you, and may the good Lord bless us. [applause]

Ramos Rejects Workers' Demand for Wage Hike

HK0108060392 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] President Fidel Ramos has rejected workers demand for a wage hike. In his speech before the Management Association of the Philippines, the president called on labor groups to settle the issue through collective bargaining with their employers. He also called on legislators to think of a way through which the workers and employers could agree on the wage issue. The president stressed that collective bargaining is the most effective way to resolve the issue. The 1 May Movement is asking for an additional wage of P21.00

[pesos], while the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines wants P25. The minimum wage in Metro Manila is P118, while in the province it ranges from P98-P110.

Senator Assails Ramos on Rejection

HK0108060492 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Senator Ernesto Herrera says about 14 billion Philippine pesos remain uncollected by the government. Senator Herrera told a news conference that this amount covers unpaid import duties in the form of promissory notes, most of which are from textile and garment firms that imported products this year. Citing this, Herrera said the government need not impose new tax measures. He criticized the Ramos administration's cold response to the proposal to increase workers' wages when it is already planning to impose new tax measures on the impoverished citizenry.

Central Bank Chief Faces Senate Investigation

HK0108083092 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] The Senate will invesigate Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia Jr. regarding the recently signed agreement on foreign debt restructuring.

Senator Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said the Senate wants to know what advantages the Philippines can obtain from the agreement. Arroyo said the Senate wants to take another position in case the signed agreement proves to have bad effects on the country's economy.

Ramos Renews Amnesty Offer to Rebels

HK0308054592 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] President Fidel Ramos has once more urged rebels to accept his amnesty offer. He asked rebel soldier and communist insurgents to try out the general amnesty program, particularly the proposal to amend the antisubversion act.

The antisubversion act will repeal Republic Act 1700 which outlaws the communist movement.

The administration has also released a proclamation establishing the National Unification Commission which will manage negotiations between the government and the rebels.

Government Urges Peace Talks

HK0308033892 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 3 Aug 92 p 1

[By Linda T. Jumilla]

[Text] A nine-man multi-sectoral body called the National Unification Commission [NUC] will negotiate peace with leftist and rightist rebels in line with the government's peace initiatives, according to Sen. Wigberto Tanada.

He said peace advocates were pushing for Horacio Morales, a former communist rebels and acknowledged rural development expert, to head the proposed commission that would undertake the peace talks.

"The government is shopping around for someone acceptable to both sides of the (peace) negotiating table," Tanada, himself a likely member of the proposed peace commission, said.

Morales' name was mentioned during a recent meeting between Tanada and Defense Secretary Renato S. de Villa to discuss the creation of the peace commission and the planned peace talks.

Tanada said he and De Villa agreed that whoever heads the commission should be "acceptable" to leftist and rightist rebels, as well as to the military.

Tanada said Morales appeared acceptable to all sides involved in the planned peace talks.

Morales is president of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM), advocate of development expert [as published] both here and abroad, having served as consultant to several United Nations agencies on democracy and development issues.

Tanada said the NUC's members would come from the Executive, Congress, the academe, non-governmental organizations, and other sectors.

Having represented the Senate in the multi-sectoral peace panel of the previous administration, Tanada himself was a likely member of the proposed commission, according to sources privy to the peace efforts.

The sources said other likely members of the NUC were Tarlac Rep. Jose Yap for the House of Representatives, and University of the Philippines president Jose Abueva for the academe.

Yap was handpicked by President Ramos to be his personal emissary to communist rebels.

He was scheduled to seek out the Utrecht-based Jose Ma. Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, to convey the government's peace proposal.

Last year, Yap and Morales also had unofficial "exploratory" talks with leaders of the leftist National Democratic Front (NDF) in the Netherlands.

While patterned after the Aquino administration's multi-sectoral peace panel, Tanada said, the proposed NUC would not be headed by a Cabinet member or any government official.

He said the commission's day-to-day operation would have to be supervised full-time which a government official could not do.

"We believe the head of the commission has to come from outside of government because the position requires someone who could work full-time," Tanada said.

Communists Seek Funds From Japanese Group

HK0308055992 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 3 Aug 92 p 1

[By Dario Agnote]

[Text] Communist insurgents in the Cordilleras have sought financial support from a Japanese left-wing group in an effort to restore the financial pipeline which was severed by the demise of socialist states in Eastern Europe.

A nine-page debriefing document, which a senior military intelligence official furnished the INQUIRER, said at least two ranking leaders of the National Democratic Front Cordillera Regional Committee flew to Japan last April 3 for a month-long visit and "solidarity" meetings with a Japanese workers' group code-named Jackie.

Military and police officials said the local communist leaders may have also met with leading cadres of the Japanese Red Army (JRA) during their visit. They said Japan and Australia are now the main sources of funds for the local communist movement.

The document revealed that some members of the Japanese left-wing group were expected to visit the country this month.

Entitled "Spring Trip to Jaguar," the code report of the trip contained accounts of day-to-day activities including discussions, interviews, sharing of experiences, attending rallies, consultations, and exposure trips to a "movie village and monkey mountain."

The report was among the documents seized by police operatives from Fr. Cirilo Ortega, Joanna Carino and 11 other alleged senior cadres of the CPP's [Communist Party of the Philippines] Northern Luzon Commission (NLC) and the Cordillera People's Democratic Front (CPDF), who were arrested in Quezon City last July 27. They were eventually released.

Aside from three laptop computers, diskettes, printers and other equipment, police agents also recovered travel documents and cash in various currencies, including 1,000,000 yen. Among the travel documents seized were passports of Ortega and Kathleen Okubo, whom police tagged as a senior member of the NLC's International Solidarity Staff.

Ortega's and Okubo's passports showed they have visited Japan twice and once, respectively. Color pictures—some taken on March 12-13, 1989, others on April 16-26, 1992—seized from the alleged communist leaders' safehouses in Quezon City also confirmed reports on the meetings between Ortega and suspected Japanese Marxist-Leninists.

The police also seized a huge red flag bearing slogans in Japanese.

According to the report on the Japan trip, "general solidarity relations" between the Philippine and Japanese "people's movements" were established sometime in 1989. But the local cadres acknowledged that the ties between the two left-wing groups were not sustained due to the prevailing "objective political condition."

Solidarity relations with people's movements in European countries were all established during the Marcos regime, the report said, adding that sympathy was directed to the "national democratic" groups because of the regime's dismal human rights record.

When former President Corazon Aquino came to power, the report said, the solidarity movements in Japan and Western Europe (WE) became "unstable."

"The people of Japan and WE lost the basis of support for the (national democratic) struggle in the Philippines," the report said, "This is now particularly true among the workers. Now, they do not want to have anything to do with the party, with the NDF, and with the NPA. They are against the civil war and armed struggle. They are for parliamentary democracy, stability of the state and society, and free economy."

CPP Chairman To Face Arrest Upon Return

HK3107112892 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Defense Secretary Renato de Villa has confirmed that the chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP], Jose Ma. Sison, will be arrested the moment he returns to the Philippines.

Secretary De Villa said the military has no choice but to arrest Sison once he sets foot on Philippine soil because of the pending court cases against him.

Nevertheless, De Villa said Sison may not be arrested if he applies for amnesty once Congress has approved President Fidel Ramos's proposal to give amnesty to all rebels in the country.

Sison, who is now in Ultrech, the Netherlands, stressed that he will not return to the Philippines just to discuss the granting of amnesty to rebels.

He said he is willing to meet with any Ramos representative regarding the amnesty if the meeting will be held in a neutral country. Sison said the meeting may be held in Hong Kong or Singapore.

Army Rebel Bibit Confirms Talks, Denies Immunity

HK3107130292 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 31 Jul 92

[By Rene Sta. Cruz—italicized passages in English]

[Text] An agreement has been reached by the Reform the Armed Forces Movement and the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] and the Philippine National Police not to launch any armed offensive against each other while peace talks are underway. This was Colonel Billy Bibit's statement made during an exclusive interview conducted earlier by this reporter.

Bibit confirmed that he and General Lisandro Abadia have agreed not to launch an offensive against each other while talks between them and the government are taking place. He said that he was even given a safe conduct pass last month in line with the on-going talks.

[Begin Bibit recording] We agreed that we would not cause any trouble. We would not plot. We would not recruit. These points were included in the discussions. And we have given our word to General Abadia to honor this agreement.

We even had the same agreement with General Nazareno's representatives. *I was not able to talk to General Nazareno himself because allegedly he was very busy. But with his representatives, I made it clear* that this was the agreement we had with the other party [the AFP], and I hoped the same would apply to my discussions with them. [end recording]

Bibit said the safe conduct pass issued by General Abadia does not give any assurance of immunity from arrest, citing the earlier apprehension of six colleagues. He said that he was disappointed with the arrest of his colleagues because this clearly violates the agreement. He was also disappointed with the arrests because he personally asked his colleagues to return to Metro Manila to visit their families thinking that they were immune from arrest while talks were being undertaken.

[Begin Bibit recording] Aside from [my colleagues] being arrested, additional charges were even filed against them. They charged them with robbery, carnapping, and kidnapping. I am denying all of these accusations. The truth is that we had nothing to do with these kidnappings.

I think a commission is now trying to determine the truth behind this matter and I hope they do, so that they may clear us of this issue.

Having a safe-conduct pass does not necessarily mean that my movements are totally free. I am reserving it in case someone suddenly tries to arrest me. I am still having regular consultations with my classmates. I still need this pass to go to them since it would be impossible for me to invite them to my place. So, although I do not believe that I am totally free with this safe-conduct pass, I still need it. There are still agencies out there who do not understand the meaning of this safe-conduct pass. [end recording]

Abadia Reportedly Talks With Bibit

HK0308064192 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 1 Aug 92 p 8

[By Dario Agnote]

[Text] Former Constabulary Lt. Col. Billy Bibit yesterday bared that he had been meeting with Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Lisandro C. Abadia for the past few weeks inside Camp Aguinaldo.

Bibit, who was released on bail and later rejoined the rightist underground, claimed during an interview with radio station DZXL that he was issued a safe-conduct pass by both Abadia and Philippine National Police Director General Cesar Nazareno.

A military rebel source said Abadia has, indeed, issued safe-conduct passes not only to Bibit but to the other fugitive coup leaders like Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, Felix Turingan and Domingo Calajate.

Defense Secretary Renato S. de Villa said the RAM-SFP-YOU [Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union] declared a unilateral moratorium not to mount offensive operations against the government, but stressed that "it was an informal one."

"I think there has been an informal agreement among themselves but it has not come up to the level of the (defense) department. I have been informed also informally that the RAM elements volunteered not to conduct any operation for the meantime that we are trying to formulate a peace program," De Villa said.

He added: "But I don't think the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] has made a commitment. I understand that the AFP only gave safe-conduct passes in the past for a very limited period of time."

The military high command was mum about the alleged meeting between Bibit and Abadia and the reported issuance of safe-conduct passes to the other mutinous officers.

Abadia refused to talk to defense reporters at Camp Aguinaldo.

Col. Ernesto Carolina, the AFP spokesman, explained that Abadia did not want to muddle the issue of the ongoing peace process with the military rebels. It was up to the defense secretary to make statements that concerns the ongoing peace talks, he added.

Detained mutinous officers at Camp Aguinaldo and Fort Bonifacio said they had no idea about the meetings that took place between Abadia and Bibit or any of their fugitive comrades.

"We are totally cut off," said Navy Captain Proceso Maligalig in a telephone interview. "Puro, shop talk lang dito [It has been purely shop talk here.] We don't know what is really going on."

Navarro Interviewed; No Plans To Surrender

HK3107120092 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 31 Jul 92 p 5

[Interview with Fr. Frank Navarro, National Democratic Front member, by Media Mindanao News Service; place and date not specified]

[Text] *Communist guerrilla priest, Fr. Frank Navarro, formally released captured soldier Cpl. Celso Navarez of the Army's 29th infantry battalion to Tandag Bishop Ireneo Amantillo somewhere in the hinterland of Surigao del Sur. Media Mindanao News Service rushed a 20-minute interview with Navarro, a.k.a. Ka [Comrade] Migo. Focus was on reports that the 43-year-old Navarro had planned to surrender with the intervention of younger brother Librado, (the mayor of Marihatag town who, like Navarro represented the National Democratic Front in the 1986 failed peace talks), on local peace talks and the National Democratic Front's (NDF) attitude towards the amnesty offer of the Ramos government.*

Reports have it your brother is working for your possible surrender.

I have no plans to surrender. What the military did was use my brother as mayor of Marihatag to propagate that I am surrendering. In fact, I had never entertained the possibility of surrendering because if I'll do that, it will appear that I'm selling the interest of the masses.

How about the reports that there were letters from you and George Madlos calling for a facilitator or mediator for your surrender?

That's a big lie. We have earlier pronounced that we are open for possible talks. However, it should be a nationally-coordinated peace talks because almost all issues involved are of national character.

You have been accusing the military of their insincerity towards peace talks. How would you evaluate their moves?

That's a mere propaganda campaign to spread out to the people that they (government/military) are really for peace. But if you look at it, it is a "double-faced" peace initiative. They are saying they are for peace talks and yet what they do is actual military operations against us.

Comment on Ramos' amnesty program?

The Ramos amensty program is a deceptive move against the people and the revolutionary movement. Their amnesty requires us to lay down arms without even scrutinizing the main cause of revolution. They want us to believe that they'll release all political detainees. But we know that if ever, only those with subversion charges will be freed. While many of our comrades have been charged of criminal crimes.

In case you'll agree to the peace talks, what are the possible talking points?

The people's basic problem that need to be responded by the government. These problems are the main cause why there is revolutionary movement among the people.

Such as?

First, is the continuing foreign control over Philippine affairs. This was manifested by the long stay of US military bases here. Another problem is land ownership by small farmers. Until now, there's no genuine land reform. Third, is the massive graft and corruption in our civil bureaucracy and military. Our bureaucratic system has tolerated this for so long now.

At the local level what will be the possible talking points?

One would be the glaring human rights violations by the military who did not follow provisions of the Protocol II during war. Another will be the intolerable entry of big businesses here like logging and other agriculture-based businesses. These businesses threatened the lands of farmers and even tribal communities. Big portion of lands here were already grabbed by big businesses like the NGPI (National Guthrie Planations Inc.) and Picop (Paper Industries Corporation of the Philippines).

You said that continuing foreign control over Philippine affairs will be the primary talking point in the peace talks. The Senate already rejected the bases treaty.

I think there will really be another round of negotiations. It is clear that the US is presently courting Ramos to reestablish the relationship that would later on end up to the renegotiation of the continued stay of the bases.

How about land reform under the Ramos administration?

His pronouncement of considering five-hectare limit instead of 50 hectares (as earlier reported) was just similar to Aquino's way of entertaining the farmers about her centerpiece program. But being a landlord, Ramos and the rest of his men in Congress and Senate, it's too much to expect that there will be a genuine land reform during his term.

What do you think of Ramos' move to increase benefits and salary of military and police personnel as an effort to eradicate graft and corruption in their ranks?

Even before, budget for defense was already big. As I see it, increasing the budget for the salary of military and police personnel is not really the solution. If we will scrutinize it, corruption is already deeply-rooted in our government system, not only in the military.

In expressing willingness to sit with the government on peace talks, what does the NDF hope to gain?

The NDF is sincere in its intention to bring peace through peace talks. But it should be peace based on justice which we perceive as long-term peace. Definitely, we are not for government's peace talks and amnesty by laying down our arms or surrender. Even if we will surrender, the movement will continue unless the root causes of the problems will be properly addressed.

Do you welcome a peace talks with an intermediary body like the United Nations?

Intermediary bodies like the United Nations and the International Committee on Red Cross are of great help in peace talks.

If ever the NDF ignored the peace offer, what do you think Ramos would do?

They will continue in their war against us and against all struggling people. But we will be ready. For 24 years now, we have at least proven that our cause is winning and not waning as the Armed Forces of the Philippines claimed for several times already.

CPP Movement To Continue, Step Up Operations

HK0308054492 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] The communist movement is determined to continue and step up its rebellion against the government.

In a three-page statement made by the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] Central Committee signed by its chairman, Armando Liwanag, the movement said the CPP-New People's Army's [NPA] will continue its struggle until true national democracy has been achieved.

The CPP-NPA and the National Democratic Front have criticized what they call the continued existence of an oppressive society and the renewed popular struggle which urged them to start a rebellion against the government.

The communist movement said it will return to the fold of the law if all that was promised to resolve the main problems of the Filipino people has been achieved.

This is the first official statement of the CPP Central Committee in response to the Ramos administration's amnesty proposal.

MNLF Chiefs, Followers Surrender in Marawi City

HK0308054692 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 3 Aug 92 p 8

[By Archie Monterola]

[Text] Marawi City—Two Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) commanders, who are brother and sister operating in Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte, and 41 armed followers surrendered last Thursday to Brig. Gen. Oswaldo Villanueva, 6th Infantry Division commander, at the headquarters of the 39th Infantry Battalion at Camp Ranaw, this city.

Villanueva received the surrenderers who turned over their firearms consisting of B-140 tanks, rocket launchers and several high-powered guns. They were led by Commander Mercado Taratanto sa Umay and his sister, Commander Sura Umay.

The surrender rites were witnessed by provincial officials and Maj. Artemio Cabanto and his staff.

Cabanto said the surrender of Umay came after several months of surveillance by Army operatives led by Lieutenant Adwila.

Thailand

Supreme Commander, Army Chief Removed From Posts

BK0108141092 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1338 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Announcement of the Prime Minister's Office]

[Text] His Majesty the King has issued an instruction on the appointment of the following military officers:

The Defense Ministry

Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin, the supreme commander and Air Force commander, to become military inspector general;

The Office of the Defense Permanent Secretary

General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, Army commander, to become deputy defense permanent secretary;

General Wirot Saengsanit, deputy Army commander, to become deputy defense permanent secretary;

The Supreme Command

Air Chief Marshal Woranat Aphichari, the military inspector general, to become supreme commander;

General Phichit Kunlawanit, the deputy defense permanent secretary, to become deputy supreme commander;

Gen. Wisit Atkhumwong, the deputy defense permanent secretary, to become deputy supreme commander;

The Army

Gen. Wimon Wongwanit, the deputy supreme commander, to become Army commander;

Gen. San Siphen, the assistant Army commander, to become deputy Army commander;

Gen. Yutthana Yaemphan, attached to the Army headquarters, to become assistant Army commander;

Gen. Khachon Ramanwong; the Army adviser, to become attached to the Army headquarters;

Lieutenant General Uam Manorat, the assistant Army chief of staff for intelligence, to become Army adviser;

Lt. Gen. Chettha Thanacharo, 2d Army Corps commander, to become commander of the 1st Army Region;

Lt. Gen. Chainarong Nunphakdi, 1st Army Region commander, to become director of the Higher Army Institute;

Lt. Gen. Somphong Phimonphan, the director of the Higher Army Institute, to become assistant Army chief of staff for intelligence.

Major General Prayun Midet, deputy commander of the 1st Army Region, to become commander of the 2d Army Corps;

The Air Force

Air Chief Marshal Kan Phimanthip, the deputy supreme commander, to become Air Force commander.

This is effective from 1 August 1992.
Announced on 1 August 1992.
Countersigned by Anan Panyarachun, prime minister

New Commanders Vow To Depoliticize Military

BK0308011792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Aug 92 p A1

[Text] Newly-appointed Army Commander in Chief Wimon Wongwanit pledged yesterday to separate soldiers from politics and ruled out the possibility of coups as long as he controlled the military's most powerful post.

"We soldiers will exercise our (political) rights as individual citizens," he said. "We will never get involved in politics through the use of our organization's solidarity. Soldiers will become professional."

The pledge came a day after Gen Wimon replaced ex-army chief Itsaraphong Nunphakdi in a dramatic military reshuffle carried out by interim Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun. The shakeup tamed a military clique which ousted the elected government of Chatchai Chunhawan in a coup last year and was blamed for the military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in May.

Wimon has been hailed as a "professional soldier", having spoken out in support of democratic principles and expressed tacit objections to traditional military interference in politics.

He was asked yesterday if he would maintain his stand, which was apparently the main reason for his promotion.

"Of course, our policy is non-interference (in politics). ... I will do my best to deserve the trust of my superiors, friends, subordinates and the people," he said.

Wimon, whose residence on the Ratchasima Road was crowded with reporters and well-wishers yesterday, said Itsaraphong had congratulated him on the phone.

"I'm proud to have been entrusted with this job though I feel a little bit uneasy because my promotion has negatively affected some colleagues," said the 58-year-old army chief.

"I don't know how he (Itsaraphong) feels. .. But he surely will feel very sad if nobody understands him and uses the occasion to look down on him," Wimon added.

He expressed confidence that the reshuffle would not split the military.

Apart from Itsaraphong, the shakeup involving 16 officers also saw the transfer of former supreme commander ACM Kaset Rotchananin and former first army region commander Lt Gen Chainarong Nunphakdi to less active posts.

Itsarapong is now deputy permanent secretary for defence. Kaset becomes inspector general and Chainarong head of the Institute of Army Academics.

Senior officers rallied behind Itsaraphong last week amid tense speculation about an imminent reshuffle.

"Loyalty is not a bad thing," Wimon said. "But when soldiers have a new commander, they will have to give him their loyalty as well. Loyalty is what soldiers have to have, but that doesn't mean they must be so loyal to a person that they forget to serve (the public)."

Saturday's shakeup preceded an annual military reshuffle due at the end of September. Wimon vowed to take an active role in working out the annual reshuffle list.

Asked if he could guarantee there would not be any more coups, Wimon said: "I will say coups are obsolete. And we have to be sure that we can do what we say."

He called for a reconciliatory approach to heal the country's wounds inflicted by the May political turbulence.

The former military leadership had tried to portray calls for their removal as a move to undermine the overall military institution.

Wimon urged the mass to help him restore the image of the armed forces and not to unleash parting shots at the transferred officers.

"I'm not happy to see the headlines of some newspapers, which said senior officers were 'purged'. This is in fact a transfer and such headlines hurt," he said.

"I'd like to ask all of you (journalists) to help re-establish unity. When the military is unified, the country will be secure. ... The media must carry out their work with full responsibility. To say that the military is at its low point could be misleading. It's the media's duty to make the people understand the real situation so that the military can develop."

Wimon said he would resign as chairman of the State Railways of Thailand so he could concentrate full time on his army work.

His pledge of non-interference in politics was echoed yesterday by new Deputy Army Commander in Chief Sanya Siphen.

"Who will dare stage another coup now that both new army and air force chiefs have said they are so firmly against it?" said Gen Sanya.

ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kan Phimanthip is new air force commander in chief, a position held by Kaset before the reshuffle.

"You can be sure," Kan said, when asked if soldiers would definitely stay away from politics.

He said the reshuffle was what the people wanted, and "I think the public will not demand anything more."

Kan was apparently referring to demands that the former military leaders be brought to trial for their role in the May violence. An amnesty decree issued by the doomed military-backed Suchinda government has ruled out attempts to take legal action against them.

—The general election would be held in a freer and fairer atmosphere in the aftermath of Saturday's military reshuffle, said Chira Hongladarom, spokesman for PollWatch, the independent election monitoring body.

Newly-appointed Supreme Commander ACM Woranat Aphichari and Army chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit, as their work records show, are seen as professional soldiers with a democratic outlook, Chira told a press conference.

He hoped that the top military leaders would cooperate with PollWatch to hold a fair election.

He said he expected that TV and radio stations under military control would now render support to democracy and not the armed forces.

If that is the case, the armed forces would be able to encourage more people to turn out and cast their ballots in the next poll," the spokesman said.

Referring to the panel's plan to observe the upcoming poll, Chira said PollWatch would continue working after the Sept 13 election to ensure that some successful election candidates do not pay the people who have voted for them.

"This is because we've learned that certain politicians pay voters after they win House seats," he said.

Asked if PollWatch would seek militiary help to oversee security at polling stations because of a lack of policemen, Chira said it was likely and he will soon consult the Police Department.

On the inadequate number of volunteers to observe polling stations, he said the government has a plan to assign local government officials to help monitor the election.

New Army Commander Pledges To 'Unify' Army

BK0208133392 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Newly appointed Army commander General Wimon Wongwanit has assured that he will perform his duties honestly and fairly and that he will unify the Army. Although it rained this morning, senior Army and Supreme Command officials, businessmen, and many people presented Gen. Wimon with bouquets at his residence in Suan Runrudi. Looking happy, Gen. Wimon told reporters at his residence that he would perform his duties honestly and fairly. Although the Army's image has been tarnished in the eyes of some people, he said he would create understanding among the people throughout the country about the Army's stance.

[Begin recording] [Wimon] First, I want to say that I feel very grateful for the royal kindness granted toward me. Second, I am aware that the duties I will have to perform are very demanding because every past commander has carried out his duties strongly and well. Therefore, I will carry on these duties with sacrifice, diligence, honesty, and fairness. My hope is that everyone in the Army will unite with one another to develop the Army so that it will be most useful to the country, the throne, and the people. Thank you. [end recording]

Soldiers Called On To Accept Reshuffle

BK0208012392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Aug 92 p 3

[Text] Before the order for the transfer of military chiefs was announced, newly-appointed Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit said that soldiers would have to accept the order no matter what it was.

Gen Wimon, previously deputy supreme commander, was named by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun to replace Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, who became Deputy Permanent Secretary for Defence.

Asked yesterday about reports that he would be named Army chief, Gen Wimon said he did not know about them.

He said he had not seen the order, but that soldiers simply obeyed the orders of their superiors.

"If the order is to go to war where they may die, soldiers still have to go because the order is lawful," Gen Wimon said.

He said soldiers had already said that they would have no problems with the transfer, because the commanders have responsibility.

He asked reporters not to make too much of the issue because it might lead to misunderstanding and conflict.

Asked about the view of Deputy Army Chief of Staff Lt-Gen Yutthana Khamdi that soldiers would not accept the transfer order, Gen Wimon said this was just the personal opinion of Lt-Gen Yutthana.

He called on soldiers who are both senators and members of the boards of state enterprises to resign from the boards. They should do this to show their good faith, he said.

The Juridical Council has recently ruled that a senate seat is a political post. Many state enterprises have a regulation barring board members from taking political posts.

Gen Wimon is also chairman of the State Railway of Thailand, but he pointed out that the SRT does not have such a regulation.

Pro-Democracy, Party Leaders Comment on Reshuffle

BK0208011792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Aug 92 p A1

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun yesterday removed Supreme Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin, Army Commander in Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi and two other key army officers involved in the May crackdown from their crucial posts in a shakeup that sees a new group of professional soldiers take command of the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

The bombshell dropped by the prime minister yesterday had been anticipated over the past week. Yet the changes were more sweeping and dramatic than had earlier been speculated.

It was widely felt that only Kaset and Itsaraphong would be deprived of their powerful posts as air force and army commander in chief respectively.

Sources said it was apparent the prime minister negotiated for more dramatic changes to defuse tension between the military and the public.

The changes last night were welcomed by the public, but described as "too drastic" by Sunthon Khongsomphong, who headed the defunct National Peacekeeping Council following the Feb 23 coup and was Kaset's predecessor at the Supreme Command.

Chamlong Simuang, who led the mass demonstrations against former premier Suchinda Khraphrayun last May in a telephone interview from Osaka, Japan, told THE NATION last night the prime minister had finally complied with the public's demand for the removal of the military leaders responsible for the May massacre.

The move, he said, would improve the political situation and lessen military interference in the upcoming general election as well as politics afterwards.

Chamlong said restructuring of the Armed Froces was now no longer necessary because of the sweeping changes.

He said he did not expect a blacklash from those in the Armed Froces who are loyal to the former supreme commander and army commander in chief.

Deputy Chat Phatthana leader Gen Athit Kamlang-ek also welcomed the move yesterday, describing Wimon as a suitable choice for the top army post.

Karun Buakhamsi, deputy secretary general of the Confederation for Democracy, said she was satisfied with the prime minister's bold decision to transfer the military leaders responsible for the bloody suppression last May. She praised the prime minister for his "political courage" and called on the new Armed Forces leaders to step up efforts to trace people still reported missing from the May violence.

Kan told reporters he was overwhelmed by his appointment as air force commander in chief.

"I was not informed in advance of the appointment, but I am delighted that I have the trust of His Majesty the King," he said.

Kan pledged he would see to it that the air force became more professional.

"I will try to steer (officers) along professional lines, and will not allow them to become political or business soldiers," he said.

He said that another coup d'etat is now out of question.

"It should be no longer a subject, if all (in the Armed Froces) know their duties and responsibilities," he said.

Kan, Woranat, and Kaset graduated from Air Force Academy Class One, which is equivalent to Class Five of Chumlachomklao Military Academy.

Woranat was replaced by Kaset as an force commander in chief when Chathai Chunhawan was prime minister and defence minister. Kan was "kicked out" of the Air Force when he was deputy commander in chief and in line to succeed Kaset. His return to the Air Force is a dramatic turn in his career.

Sunthon last night welcomed Wimon's appointment. The new army commander will be able to lead the rank and file because he wa a commander of combat forces," Sunthon said.

Wimon served under Sunthon at the Special Warfare Command. [passage omitted]

Paper Praises Removal as 'Welcome Development'

BK0308033392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Aug 92 p 4

[Editorial: "A Courageous and Decisive Move"]

[Text] The dramatic removal on Saturday of Supreme Commander and Air Force chief ACM Kaset Rotchananin, Army chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi and his nephew, First Army Region commander Lt-Gen Chainarong Nunphakdi from the top military posts by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun is, indeed, a welcome development. The changes constitute a blessing for all democratic aspirants who wish to see the country back on the path of democracy. They will also help dissipate the ominous atmosphere of political uncertainty and apprehension out of concern about whether democracy will be allowed to pursue its course and whether there will be a second, third or more coups by the same group of people who staged the February 23 takeover on grounds which were eventually proved totally unjustified and self-serving. Suddenly, it looks as if a flicker of light has emerged from the end of a tunnel and the future prospect of the country is no longer doomed. At least, we can hope that the kind of political manipulation exacted by a handful of politically-ambitious top brass over political parties earlier this year will not be repeated.

The reshuffle also put an end to what was clearly a calculated and carefully nurtured move to perpetuate the power of a handful of officers of Class Five of the Chunlachomklao Royal Military Academy. The firmly-entrenched "dynasty" system would have seen the ascension of the Class's own clique and proteges to powerful posts in all three branches of the armed forces as well as the police force which, as some critics had feared, would have ensured their positions in the corridors of political power for a decade long.

Had this dynasty system not been broken or halted, it would have been impossible for military officers who are truly professional soldiers, but who have no political ambitions, to rise up the ladder to posts of power even though they were more efficient, more intelligent and more dedicated to the country.

Hopefully, the appointment of the new military leadership, especially that of Gen Wimon Wongwanit as the new army chief, will usher in a new era for the army which, in the last few years, has been misled and misused as if it was a private institution rather than the national army. It was only recently that soldiers were made to swear allegiance to their bosses in addition to their loyalty towards the Trinity of the Nation, the Religion and the Monarchy, which is unusual in the history of the Thai military.

The announcement yesterday by Gen Wimon to depoliticise the army is as encouraging as his appointment to the post. It must also be hoped that a new sense of professionalism will be injected into the army as well as the two other branches of the armed forces to make military officers truly professional soldiers who are dedicated to the protection of the country and the people.

No matter how encouraging are these positive developments, there remains one thorny and emotional issue which needs to be resolved—the fate of more than 400 people still unaccounted for following the May crackdown. The families of the missing are still anxiously waiting for an answer, particularly from the military leadership which ordered the crackdown, about whether they are alive or dead. And if they are dead, where are their bodies? It is as much a moral obligation as the duty of the new military leadership to clear up the mystery. Failing that, the image of the public and the world will remain questionable and public faith towards the military will not be fully restored.

In the final analysis, Prime Minister Anan deserves an ovation for his bold move, not only because of his courage despite the odds against him, but also because of his conviction to right what went so terribly wrong in the military establishment in the past year. Sceptics who had under-estimated the prime minister's strength and decisiveness on this sensitive issue have now been proven wrong.

It is now the duty of the new military leadership to carry on the task to restore the image and honour of the military establishment and to win back the trust and confidence of their countrymen.

Article Views Reaction to Military Reshuffle

BK0208032592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Aug 92 p A9

["Sideline" by Sophon Onkhara]

[Text] Surprise! Surprise! Or was it just a pure coincidence that the public suddenly heard two senior military figures chant in unison that it would be extremely unpleasant to the armed forces that some of their top commanders were about to be removed to obscure posts?

They even wanted to have a brotherly chit-chat with the defence minister over the expected shakeup at the top. Oh dear! So much for discipline.

Their utterances could be regarded as a thinly-veiled warning that certain powerful elements in the armed forces would be unhappy indeed if their top bosses—Supreme Commander and Air Force Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin and Army Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi—were unceremoniously dumped in bleak spots of their barracks.

Their courage, obedience and loyalty are admirable. Alas, they were just misguided. They failed to gauge the public mood on the commanders of the military establishment. Objectively negative, that should be the right word. But Army Deputy Chief-of-Staff Lt Gen Yutthana Kamdi and Deputy Supreme Commander Adm [Admiral] Han Sakunphanit were obviously unaware of this sentiment.

Yutthana told reporters: "We love our army chief, and he was shaken by what was being directed at him." Adm Han pointed out that the military institution would be tolerant to pressure, come what may.

Their statement all boiled down to the same thing—resistance to what appears to be an imminent reshuffle, which includes the removal of Kaset and Itsaraphong from their powerful positions. Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun has been vague about his intention, but there should be no doubt if we use the way he meticulously and subtly unseated the two from their domains at state enterprises.

Right up to this moment, vocal military figures have been insisting that what the armed forces did during the violent crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators was within the line of their duty and responsibility. That may be true, if they considered innocent, unarmed people as enemies and not as people they should protect against external threats.

Here lies an indisputable question of misjudgement and a misreading of the situation. It is sad to learn that both Yutthana and Han want to repeat the same error in judgement, in their last-ditch attempt to rescue their booses, by insisting that the two C-in-Cs had done nothing wrong.

One could not help but think that their institution has not only been entrusted with the role of national defence, but some kind of personal fiefdom of men who wrongly thought that some military figures are indispensable and that the nation would not survive without them at the top.

The military institution should in no way be construed as a safe haven for mass murderers or some hot-headed commanders who think they can do no wrong even if it involves indiscriminately killing their countrymen.

Yutthana and Han did not explain why nobody, particularly the armed forces commanders, was willing to accept responsibility for the shoot-to-kill order on Ratchadamnoen Avenue and Sanam Luang, and for the loss of life and the missing people who were the victims of the brutal military suppression.

There are some simple questions here: If nobody had ordered the shooting, then how could those heavily-armed soldiers pulled the triggers to commit what has come to be internationally rated as a wholesale slaughter? In this case, was there something wrong in the line of command? How could trigger-happy soldiers be unleashed, like dogs of war, to handle a situation they knew nothing about? Shouldn't any of the commanders be held responsible for the massacre?

Their utterances showed every sign of unrepentance, bordering on arrogance. "Coup has become outmoded", they contended. This is true. But did they speak out with full conviction? Also, do they actually beleive their own words?

The word coup, has become a taboo right now. All military commanders must be made aware of this fact. But to the people, Yutthana had obviously forgotten that one of his classmates was chiefly responsible for a similar crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators 19 years ago and those in Class Five who had survived the public backlash simply did not want to learn the lesson.

Yutthana and Han should understand that no man is indispensable. If they regard their bosses as irreplaceable, then what would the armed forces do if they reach their retirement age? In fact their departure from the present posts would do a lot of good to the military institution. It would quicken the restoration of public faith in the armed forces. Dogged persistence and insistence that there was nothing wrong when soldiers murdered innocent people would only make things worse.

There were at least two field marshals—who pursued the course of blind arrogance—with the thought in the early '70s that the country would be in ruins without them. But in the end, their fate was not much different from that of their modern-day successors in the army as far as the status of social outcasts is concerned. Another similarity is that they still think that they had been right all along.

A coup is outdated, but only in countries which are lucky enough to have democracy-minded career soldiers as commanding officers. Many people believed that a coup was a barbarian method to change the government before February 1991. But the military-figures who staged that coup had said the same thing before their actions proved that they had been lying to the people and to themselves as well.

Our generals must learn that when mistakes and wrong decisons are made, they would have to accept the consequences without cowardice—regardless whether such unfortunate actions had been based on sheer megalomania or over-confidence. Many people now must shudder in fright when they imagine the kind of decisions the top commanding officers would make when the nation is faced by external threats during times of war. The catastrophic results will be just too much to bear.

Yutthana and Han should ask themselves. If their booses had done nothing wrong, they should have no qualms in making their presence felt in public like the way they behaved before the May bloodbath. If they had a clear conscience, they should level with the people by facing all questions thrown at them in a public hearing.

Right now, they can't even walk the streets as free men and have become subjects of social banishment.

We all know that the commanders did not even show up to provde verbal testimony to the civilian committee formed by the government. They did not meet another committee whose members comprised some MPs friendly to them. In a civilian court of law, such an absence could only lead to one judgement—GUILTY AS HECK.

PRC Vice Minister Due for Talks on Cambodia

BK0208091592 Bangkok XING XIAN RIBAO in Chinese 2 Aug 92 p 4

[By correspondent Liu Zhenyan]

[Text] According to a diplomatic source, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin will lead a delegation to arrive in Bangkok late tonight to discuss the Cambodian issue with Thai officials.

Another main task of Xu Dunxin's visit to Thailand is to persuade the Khmer Rouge to comply with the peace agreement reached by the four Khmer factions in Paris on 23 October 1991. The United Nations has criticized the Khmer Rouge for breaching the cease-fire agreement and has threatened to apply sanctions against them.

Xu Dunxin will hold talks with Foriegn Minister Asa Sarasin at the Thai Foreign Ministry on the afternoon of 3 August. In the morning, Asa will meet with Yasushi Akashi, chief of United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia. Xu Dunxin, who has a good command of

Japanese, may also hold talks with Yasushi Akashi and other Japanese officials during his visit to Thailand.

Xu Dunxin will stay in Bangkok until Wednesday.

To Seek 'Joint Effort' on Khmer Rouge

BK0308014592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Aug 92 pp A1, A2

[Text] In a last-ditch effort to save the Cambodian peace agreement, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin arrived in Bangkok last night for talks with Thai authorities on a joint effort to persuade the Khmer Rouge to enter the second phase of the peace agreement, informed sources said.

Beijing decided to send Xu instead of a directorate and a team of Cambodian experts after both countries recently agreed to intensify efforts to try to ensure that all parties adhere to the peace plan.

In a separate effort, Japan is sending Tadashi Ikeda, the newly-appointed director general of its Asian Affairs Department, to Bangkok soon to consult the Foreign Ministry on a new Tokyo initiative aimed at breaking the deadlock.

Japan's keenness to get the Khmer Rouge disarmed is linked to a plan to send its self-defence forces to Cambodia. Tokyo has said the Japanese peacekeepers will not go to Cambodia if the Khmer Rouge continues to refuse to implement the peace plan.

The sources, who asked not to be identified, said Xu is scheduled to hold talks with Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin today on ways to convince the communist guerrillas to end their boycott of the second phase of the peace agreement which involves disarmament of the factions and cantonment of their troops. Until the signing of the Paris peace accord last year, Thailand and China were traditional supporters of the Khmer Rouge.

At the recent ASEAN meeting in Manila, the two countries said some Khmer Rouge complaints were legitimate and should be adequately addressed as an incentive for the guerrillas to abide by the peace plan.

The Khmer Rouge has called for the United Nations to verify that all Vietnamese troops have left the country, and for a more powerful Supreme National Council (SNC), the reconciliatory body which groups the four Cambodian factions.

The Marxist group has also demanded that the Phnom Penh government be dismantled before it agrees to disarm its forces. The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and countries which helped forge the peace pact have said the demand is outside the framework of the UN-brokered peace agreement.

During his stay in Bangkok, Xu will meet Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan on Wednesay before he leaves for Siem Riep for an SNC meeting.

Ikeda, who formerly served as a counsellor at the Japanese Embassy here, will hold talks with Thai and Chinese officials on Japan's idea to set up an administrative consultative body in Cambodia. Initial discussions have taken place in Phnom Penh with the Hun Sen government.

The body would serve as a consultative mechanism for all four Cambodian groups to discuss matters of mutual concern before the SNC and UNTAC make decisions.

It is a compromise version of the Khmer Rouge proposal to set up a joint commission made up of representatives from the four factions but falls short of dismantling the Phnom Penh government.

Meanwhile, UNTAC army chief Lt Gen John Sanderson is due to meet Asa this morning to discuss Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge issue, the sources said.

On July 31 UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi sent a letter to the Khmer Rouge urging them to cooperate with UNTAC by allowing free and thorough access to areas under their control and by allowing the disarming of their guerrillas. Akashi also called on the Khmer Rouge to attend a mixed military working group which includes the other factions and which has not met in the past two months.

The flurry of diplomatic activity also coincides with the reshuffle of Thai military chiefs announced on Saturday. Reliable sources close to the military believe that the reshuffle will have a far-reaching impact on the ties between the Thai military and the Khmer Rouge leaders.

Among the disgraced top leaders, former Army Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun has the best knowledge of and connection with Khmer Rouge leaders Pol Pot and Ieng Sary, who are still active in the highest level of the faction.

The sources believe that the Thai army, under its new leadership, could adopt tough measures against the Khmer Rouge if the faction continues to fail to comply with the peace plan.

Newly-appointed Army Chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit can rely on his deputy Gen Sanya Siphen, who used to command the Second Army region, to take care of Thailand's eastern region bordering Cambodia.

Vietnam

Joint U.S. 30 Jul-1 Aug MIA Meeting Reported

BK0108150592 Hanoi VNA in English 1431 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA 1 Aug—Vietnamese and American specialists on the MIA question met here in a regular session from July 30-August 1.

The two sides highly appreciated the results of the 18th joint search and agreed upon a plan for the 19th joint search to be conducted from August 20, 1992. The American side thanked the Vietnamese Government and people for their cooperation and affirmed its full respect for Vietnam's sovereignty, security and laws.

During its stay in Vietnam the American specialists' team led by Brigadier General Neadham was received by the acting head of the Foreign Ministry's department for America, Mr.Le Bang. The team left here for Bangkok later today.

More U.S. MIA Remains Returned

BK0308151592 Hanoi VNA in English 1509 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 3—The Vietnam Office in Search of Missing Servicemen today returned eight remains of American servicemen reported missing in action and their belongings to the representative of the U.S. Joint Casualty Resolution Center.

The remains had been collected during the recent Vietnamese unilateral search and Vietnam-U.S. joint search.

Since March 1974, Vietnam has on 38 occasions returned 482 remains of American MIA's to the U.S. side.

Speaking on the occasion the representative of the U.S. Joint Casualty Resolution Center highly appreciated the Vietnamese Government's humanitarian policy and the Vietnamese people's goodwill and cooperation.

Commentary Urges U.S. To Lift Trade Embargo

BK3107123492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The American public has continued to urge the U.S. Administration to lift its embargo against Vietnam and restore normal relations with the country. Yet many [words indistinct]. But now there are some possible developments in the process toward a normalization of U.S.-Vietnamese relations. How is this? The U.S. Government still holds onto the question of missing in actions and prisoners of war in order to delay the lifting of the embargo and the restoration of relations with Vietnam.

Meanwhile, the American public keeps demanding that the Bush administration take more positive steps in responding to the aspirations and interests of the American people. A number of American people hold that there are no longer reasons for the U.S. to follow a hostile policy against Vietnam. In his article published in the KALAMAZOO GAZETTE, American professor David Thomas, who is also a veteran of the war in Vietnam, says the Vietnamese Government has responded to the American humanitarian demands and provided the latter with a list of 1,600 missing in actions. The Vietnamese side also cooperated with the U.S. by searching for MIA's and confirming information on live sightings of MIA's and POW's in Indochina. Because of all this the U.S. has no reason to drag out the embargo, which only causes losses on both sides.

In his talk with our radio correspondent during his recent visit to Vietnam, Mr. David Thomas said:

[Begin recording] What we're trying to do with the Indochina Arts Project is to educate Vietnamese about Americans and to educate Americans about Vietnam. The history between our two countries is one of suffering and tragedy. We'd like to change that history or add on to that history and create a new image in America about the Vietnamese and a new image in this country about Americans, that Americans are not simply soldiers since 1952 and kill Vietnamese. And that Vietnamese are not simply soldiers that kill Americans. That we're honest, that we stand for the same things. That we're virtually the same kind of people except for the culture but we're all trying to do the same things. Especially the artists, we speak different languages verbally but as artists we speak the same language. And if it makes our communication much easier as artists to communicate between the two countries. [end recording]

Mr. Thomas also said the U.S. is going to have a presidential election in November. He hoped that a change of the president will lead to a change in policy which would allow the two countries to come closer. He believes that once the missing in action and prisoners of war issues have been solved, the normalization of the U.S.-Vietnamese relations will soon be achieved, maybe in late 1992 or early 1993.

U.S. 'Women Intellectuals' Visit 18-31 Jul

BK0308150692 Hanoi VNA in English 1458 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 3—A group of American women intellectuals led by Prof. Kathryn Nomahon visited Vietnam from July 18-31 at the invitation of the Vietnam Women's Union.

While in Vietnam, the American women paid homage to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum, they were received by Mrs. Truong My Hoa and Mrs. Nguyen Thi Dinh, respectively president and honourary president of the host union.

The guests had working sessions with the president of the Vietnam Union of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Associations, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, and senior officials of some local women union chapters, they called on the Vietnam USA Friendship Association and the Foreign Ministry and some research institutes and cultural establishments in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and the northern province of Quang Ninh.

The American guests said when back home they would help the U.S. people correctly understand Vietnam and the Vietnamese women in particular, and ask the U.S. Government to put an early end to the present embargo against Vietnam, thus contributing to promoting the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Commentary Views Visit by Russian Delegation

BK0308021092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] A government delegation of the Russian Federation, led by Vice Premier Makharadze, is now on a visit to Vietnam to promote cooperative contacts between the two countries. Earlier this month, Vietnamese Vice Premier Tran Duc Luong paid a visit to Russia, Byelarus, and Ukraine. These activities show that the relations between Vietnam and Russia and other countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States have made a significant stable development. On this issue, our international commentator had this to say:

The relations between Vietnam and the republics of the former Soviet Union were established a long time ago and have become closer. For this reason, right after the disintegration of the Soviet Union the Vietnamese Government has sent its special envoy to a number of republics to maintain the already established relationship. These Commonwealth governments also want to develop their economic and trade ties with Vietnam. Many of them had set up diplomatic relations with our country. The recent visit to Russia, Byelarus, and Ukraine by Vietnamese Vice Premier Tran Duc Luong contributed to developing those ties. During this visit, Vietnam and those countries agreed to sign some agreements on economic and trade cooperation, investment promotion, and protection and the avoidance of double taxation, on banking, aviation, education, posts and telecommunications, labor, and scientific and technical cooperation.

Worthy of note is the Russian Federation and Vietnam have decided to set up committees on cooperation headed by vice premiers. In the current situation, the relations between Vietnam and countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States are based on equality and mutual benefit and mutual help. Certainly these relations will contribute to strengthening the solidarity and friendship between the Vietnamese and peoples of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Makhardze Cites 'Fine Results'

BK3107163292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] In Hanoi on the afternoon of 31 July, Comrade Tran Duc Luong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Comrade V.A. Makhardze, vice president of the Russian Federation, held a news conference on results of the first visit to Vietnam by the Russian Federation Government delegation.

Both sides briefed newsmen on results obtained by the two states in the first session of the Vietnam-Russian intergovernmental commission prior to the news conference which include the signing of a series of documents and memorandums on cooperation agreements in such domains as banking, labor, communications and transportation, post and telegraph service, civil aviation, and fishing and so forth.

Mr. Makhardze expressed satisfaction on the fine results scored during his visit to Vietnam. He hailed the renovation undertaking which is being implemented in Vietnam and expressed the belief that Vietnam will score fine achievements in its development program to make the country one of the strong and prosperous nations in the region.

Comrades Tran Duc Luong and Makhardze answered many questions of newsmen from mass media agencies at home and abroad.

Intergovernmental Commission Meets

BK0108152592 Hanoi VNA in English 1449 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 1—The Vietnamese-Russian Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Trade, Scientifcc and Technical Cooperation held its first session here from July 29-31.

The Vietnamese delegation to the session was led by Tran Duc Luong, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the Vietnamese section to the commission and the Russian delegation by V. A. Makharadze, vice premier and chairman of the Russian section to the commission.

The two sides discussed ways to promote economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and in the context that Vietnam has embarked on a renovation process and the Russian Federation is transforming its economy along the market-oriented mechanism.

The two sides also discussed measures to strengthen cooperation among localities of the two countries and pointed to the great possibilities and important significance of Vietnamese provinces in their diversified cooperation with eastern provinces of Russia. They agreed to create favourable conditions for private enterprises of one country to carry out activities in the other country.

Minutes of the first session, the intergovernmental commissions statute, a framework agreement on scientific and technical cooperation, an agreement on banking cooperation and a number of documents relating to labour cooperation and goods exchange were signed on this occasion.

The two sides took preparatory steps for the signing of an agreement on investment protection and guarantee, another agreement on avoidance of double taxation as well as agreements on communications and transport, post and telecommunication, navigation and fishing cooperation.

The Russian Government delegation left here today for Ho Chi Minh City and some other localities in south Vietnam.

Details of Visit to South

BK0308152292 Hanoi VNA in English 1514 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 3—The chairman of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, Mr. Nguyen Vinh Nghiep, received in the city in August 1 evening a visiting delegation of the Russian Government led by Vice-Premier V.A. Makharadze, and later gave a banquet in honour of the guests.

In the morning of the same day, the delegation met with the business circle in the city.

The Russian guests also attended an inaugural ceremony of the Vietnam-Russia Joint Commercial Centre in Hoc Mon District on the outskirts of the city and called at the Huy Hoang Private Garments Enterprise.

On August 2, the Russian delegation visited the Ba Ria-Vung Tau Province where they made a tour of the Vietnamese-Russian Joint Oil and Gas Enterprise (Vietnsovpetro).

The delegation left the city today, concluding a week-long visit to Vietnam.

Oriental Medicines To Be Exported to CIS

BK0208145392 Hanoi VNA in English 1432 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 2—The Vietnam Union of Pharmaceutical Enterprises plans to export about ten kinds of Oriental medicines to the Commonwealth of Independent States in 1992 for a total of 10 billion dong (almost U.S.$1 million).

These medicines are mainly produced by the Pharmaceutical Enterprise 26 in Ho Chi Minh City and have been quite familiar with customers in the former Soviet Union such as tonic, tonic liqueur, dried holothurians, balm, etc.

Minister Discusses SRV-Japanese Cooperation

BK0208080192 Hanoi VNA in English 0520 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 2—In an interview with the Army paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN on July 26, 1992, Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan said that Japan and Vietnam have many similarities in their cultural traditions, share many common interests and may supplement each other in many fields. Japan is a developed industrial country having a large capital and high technologies but it needs market and labour.

To Japan, Vietnam is a non-negligible market while Vietnam is also ready to establish cooperative relations with Japan. Vu Khoan noted that in recent years, the relations between Vietnam and Japan have not developed as it would for reasons beyond the Vietnamese people's desire.

In recent years, however, there have been some positive changes. Particularly in the last two years Japan has increased its humanitarian aid through non-governmental organizations. The Japanese Government has also granted some aid to Vietnam in the cultural field such as in the restoration of the ancient town of Hoi An and some projects in the old imperial city of Hue. Trade relations are also on the upswing as can be seen in the increasing number of Japanese companies coming to Vietnam to inquire into the Vietnamese market.

However, economic cooperation remains at a very low level compared to other countries and to the potentials of Japan itself. Japan's investments remain modest compared to other countries.

Recently, the Japanese Government has officially given non-refundable aid to Vietnam for the upgrading of the Cho Ray Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City. This is a positive step.

The changing regional and world situation is creating favourable conditions for the development of international relations. In that context, the cooperative relations between Vietnam and Japan will certainly witness improvements, Vu Khoan said.

Japanese To Help Develop Container Transport

BK0308070392 Hanoi VNA in English 0626 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 3—The Vietnam-France Sea Transport Joint Venture (Gematrans) is cooperating with Kawasaki Kisen Kausha ('K' Line) of Japan to develop Vietnam's international container transportation. The first shipment began in mid-July.

Gematrans is running two container transport lines from Ho Chi Minh City to Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan and another from Haiphong to Hong Kong and Taiwan.

In late June, Gematrans put to use the converted 'Hau Giang' freighter with a capacity of 12,800 tons to service the Ho Chi Minh City-Singapore line.

In addition, EAC-Saigon Shipping Co. Ltd. is running container shipments from Haiphong via Hong Kong to Hamburg and from Haiphong to some major ports in the world.

EAC-Saigon Shipping Co. Ltd. is the only shipping company in Vietnam to provide weekly services from Vietnam to other countries.

Railway Chief on Resuming Links With PRC

BK3107062192 Hanoi VNA in English 0601 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 31—Preparations for the resumption of rail transportation between Vietnam and China have been basically completed, said the general director of Vietnam Railways, Doan Van Xe.

In an interview with the national daily NHAN DAN, he said: "In implementation of an agreement on border railway transport signed by Vietnam and China last March, Vietnam Railways have expedited the repair of the railways in the border provinces of Lang Son and Lao Cai. The state has invested several billion dong on this work. In April and July, trial technical runs were conducted on these two lines leading to the border gates. Over the past months, Chinese and Vietnamese railway officials met several times in Lang Song and Hanoi and in Pinxiang in China to discuss preparations for the 21st Sino-Vietnamese border railway conference. Railway transport between the two countries can resume only after the signing of a protocol to this effect. Regrettably, for a number of reasons, the protocol has not been signed, and consequently no date has been set for the resumption of the railway link. I hope that the protocol could be signed soon in the interests of the two peoples and of the promotion of bilateral relations between the two countries".

Top Leaders Greet Castro on Moncada Victory Day

BK0208142592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] On the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the Cuban people's armed uprising, Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee; Comrade Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State; and Comrade Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers, sent a congratulatory message to Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party [CCP] and chairman of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

The message says in part: In bringing the undaunted and invincible tradition of the Moncada victory into full play and under the leadership of the glorious CCP, during the past more than three decades, the Cuban people have overcome numerous difficulties and ordeals and have scored significant achievements in the cause of building and defending the Socialist Cuban Fatherland. Especially, during the past several years, against the background of complex changes in the international situation, the Cuban people have strengthened their ranks around the CCP and have manifested their firm revolutionary impetus and strong determination to defend the national independence, sovereignty, and socialism of their beloved land.

On the same occasion, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam also sent a congratulatory message to his Cuban counterpart Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada.

Diplomatic Relations With Turkmenistan Begin

BK3107061192 Hanoi VNA in English 0608 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 31—Vietnam has established diplomatic relations with Turkmenistan.

The protocol in this effect was signed in Moscow on July 29 by Ho Huan Nghiem, Vietnamese ambassador to Russia, and (N. Nurklychev), permanent representative of Turkmenistan in Russia.

Malaysian Envoy on Bilateral Ties, ASEAN

BK3107035692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Malaysian Ambassador to Vietnam Parameswaran said all members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations welcomed Vietnam's adherence to the Bali Treaty. In an interview granted to our radio correspondent the Malaysian Amabassador said:

[Begin recording] [Parameswaran] I think we are very happy to see that Vietnam has taken a very positive decision to become closer to countries in this region, including the ASEAN countries, and also the decision to become a signatory to the Bali Treaty. Now I must say that this is a first step in building up a closer relationship with countries that make up ASEAN, namely Brunei, Singapore, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Now, Vietnam has also taken a decision to request for observer status in ASEAN and, as you are aware, at the recent Manila meeting of the ASEAN foreign ministers when Vietnam signed the Bali Treaty, ASEAN too welcomed Vietnam's participation as an observer to ASEAN. [end recording]

On the relations between Malaysia and Malaysia, the ambassador said:

[Begin recording] [Parameswaran] In recent years, or maybe more accurately in the last two years, there has been a very positive movement in the relations between Malaysia and Vietnam, and this has been reflected in a number of activities between our two countries. For one, we have, or at least we have now a number of visits that have taken place between the two countries, including visits by both our leaders, Mr. Vo Van Kiet to Malaysia and Mr. Mahathir to Vietnam, and both the leaders, I must say, have built up a very good personal friendship with each other and this has contributed also very much to the development of a very close relationship between our two countries. Malaysia considers Vietnam to be one of its very near neighbors and we have a policy of building up close relations with our neighbors. In line with this policy that we have, Malaysia is also anxious to build up relations with countries outside the ASEAN region who also rightly belong to the Southeast Asian region. Now we are very happy that Vietnam has now built up relations with almost all the ASEAN countries and all neighbors and this has contributed much not only to a very good bilateral relations, but also to regional stability in this area. [end recording]

About the relations between Vietnam and other ASEAN countries, the Malaysian ambassador said:

[Begin recording] [Parameswaran] Vietnam has also taken a decision to request for obsever status in ASEAN and, as you are aware, at the recent Manila meeting of the ASEAN foreign ministers when Vietnam signed the Bali Treaty, ASEAN too welcomed Vietnam's participation as an observer in ASEAN. Now from the time that ASEAN was formed, ASEAN countries were very clear in their minds as to the geographical limit of ASEAN and Vietnam has always qualified to be a member of ASEAN, but it is a particularly happy occasion now that Vietnam has decided to do so. And besides that, all ASEAN countries have welcomed Vietnam's participation as an observer and also Vietnam signing the Bali Treaty is a very good step forward. I am sure that in the coming years, we will see that Vietnam, together with our other Indochinese friends like Laos, and maybe one day even Cambodia, becoming closer to ASEAN. And together, I am sure we will be able to build up a framework of cooperation in the region, which I am sure will have a very positive result for all of us. Thank you. [end recording]

Australian Ambassador Speaks on Aid Package

BK3107064992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] The Australian Government has been deploying the aid package program of A$100 million, or US$76 million, to Vietnam in four years. With this program [word indistinct]. Following is the gist of the interview with the Australian ambassador to Vietnam on the implementation of this program. Here is Mr. John Potts:

[Begin recording] In general we are very happy now with the progress we have made toward implementing the new program—the $100 million program of assistance. We have already signed two agreements for the supply of commodities and we are now looking at beginning projects as well. For instance, we are looking at water supply projects—perhaps in Ha Tinh, Ha Bac—and those elements are already beginning to happen. This week we have a mission to discuss over the next three weeks the health—public health—strategy for Vietnam. So, many things are happening and the program is already underway. [end recording]

On Australia's assistance in the fields of English teaching, Mr. Potts said:

[Begin recording] Australia has had a history of assistance to English language training in Vietnam already. It goes back three, four, five years even. But now that we have our programs of direct assistance to Australia [as heard] we believe that English language training will remain one of the central elements of that program. We will have a delegation coming from Australia later this year to look specifically at the English language training needs of Vietnam, and I think that delegation will then have concrete recommendations. We can discuss that with the State Planning Committee and then incorporate those results in the overall program of bilateral assistance. [end recording]

Ventures With Hong Kong, French Companies Noted

BK0208145192 Hanoi VNA in English 1434 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 2—The electronics joint venture Luck-Saigon between Luck-Industrial Company Limited of Hong Kong and the Saigon Electronics Company has been set up in Ho Chi Minh City, capitalised at U.S.$9,535,000 in which Vietnam contributes 30 percent.

It will assemble radio-cassettes, televisions and manufacture video tapes. Maturity period is 20 years. Most of its products will be exported.

—France's Apil and SILL Companies have signed an agreement to build a fruit processing factory in joint venture with the Mekong River Delta Province of Tieng Giang, 70 km west of Ho Chi Minh City.

Under the agreement, the French Government will loan Tien Giang province 19 million francs (about U.S.$3.7 million) to buy machines and equipment payable in three years.

apil will install machines and train technical operators so that the factory may become operational in early 1993. SILL company (Societe Industrielle Laitiere du Lion) will be responsible for the marketing of products in the first four years for a total value of U.S.$16 million.

Tien Giang Province now has 3,800 hectares under pineapples. It plans to expand this acreage to 5,000 hectares and production to 70,000 tonnes of pineapples to supply anough materials for the factory.

Paper on Gaining Acceptance as ASEAN Observer

BK0208133992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 25 Jul 92

[NHAN DAN 25 July commentary: "New Progress in Southeast Asia's International Relations"]

[Text] On the occasion of the 25th ASEAN Foreign Ministerial Conference in Manila, the Philippines, and at the invitation of the ASEAN Standing Committee chairman, SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam arrived in Manila on 22 July to officially sign the Southeast Asia Treaty of Amity and Cooperation. Vietnam has been accepted as an observer to the ASEAN conference.

The Southeast Asia Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, known as the Bali Treaty, was signed by Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore at the first ASEAN summit meeting in Bali on 24 February 1976. The treaty has six fundamental principles governing the relations of friendship and cooperation between signatory countries. These include respect for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national characteristics of each member country; the right of each member country to carry out its tasks without foreign interference or coercion; the requirement to refrain from interfering in each other's internal affairs; the necessity of settling all differences and conflicts through peaceful negotiations; the requirement that all countries refrain from the use of force to settle problems; and the promotion of effective cooperation between member countries to expand cooperation with all peace-loving people inside and outside the Southeast Asian region.

In 1987, the ASEAN countries signed a protocol to provide a supplementary provision stipulating that other nations in Southeast Asia can join this treaty. It is necessary to say that the treaty's guiding principles governing the relations of friendship and cooperation between member countries are in conformity with the fundamental principles of modern international relations and Vietnam's foreign policy. They also serve as a basis for building Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, cooperation, and development. In signing the Bali Treaty, Vietnam has asserted its foreign policy of befriending all countries for peace, independence, and development, and has manifested its ardent wish to enhance the relations of friendship and cooperation with all nations in Southeast Asia.

In the recent years, Vietnam's goodwill and wishes to strengthen friendship and cooperation with countries in the region to build Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, and development have been warmly welcomed by the ASEAN countries. The official visit by Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet to six ASEAN countries and the official visits to Vietnam by the Indonesian president, the Thai prime minister, and the Malaysian prime minister are important events marking better understanding, friendship, and mutual trust between Vietnam and these countries. A series of cooperation agreements, signed during these visits, is being implemented by the parties concerned, thus contributing to meeting requirements in socioeconomic development in each country.

The signing of the Bali Treaty has initially provided favorable conditions for Vietnam to step by step come to participate in the multifaceted, profound, and long-term cooperation between countries in the region, thereby effectively contributing to building Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, cooperation, and development. This important event has opened up a new era in international relations in Southeast Asia which is in conformity with the general trend in developing countries. It has helped to accelerate regional cooperation and friendship for peace, independence, and development.

Welcoming this event of great significance, we sincerely thank the governments of the ASEAN countries for their full support of Vietnam's application to join the Bali Treaty.

Doan Khue Visits War Invalids in Provinces

BK3107101792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] On 21 and 22 July, General Doan Khue, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of national defense, visited and presented gifts to sick and wounded soldiers, families of fallen combatants, and those who have rendered meritorious services to the revolution in Ho Chi Minh City and Dong Nai Province.

On 21 July, Gen Doan Khue visited and presented gifts to wounded soldiers and families of fallen combatants who are undergoing treatment at Military Hospital No. 175. After listening to a briefing by officials of the hospital, Gen. Doan Khue cordially talked to patients at their bedsides. He commended the management board, doctors, nurses, and personnel of the hospital for their efforts to overcome numerous difficulties to satisfactorily fulfill their tasks. He also contributed ideas on methods to enhance the efficacy of the hospital in the days ahead.

On 22 July, Comrade Doan Khue visited Phuoc An village—one of the resistance villages during the war—in Long Thanh District, Dong Nai Province. During the war, Phuoc An scored great achievements in the struggle for national defense and was awarded the title of Heroic Unit by the state. Since the liberation, Phuoc An has satisfactorily carried out the task of caring for war invalids and families of fallen soldiers. At the village, Comrade Doan Khue met with, present gifts to, and cordially talked to cadres, wounded soldiers, and families of fallen combatants. Afterward, he attended and addressed the conference of exemplary war invalids and families of fallen soldiers of Dong Nai Province held in Bien Hoa city.

Gen Doan Khue also paid a visit to the convalescent home for parents of fallen soldiers in Thu Duc city, presented gifts to families of army officers and those who have rendered meritorious services to the revolution in Ho Chi Minh City.

Vo Chi Cong's Letter on War Invalids Day

BK0308101992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong's letter on War Invalids Day—date not given]

[Text] Dear comrades, sick and wounded soldiers, families of the fallen combatants, and those who have had meritorious services to the revolution:

On the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the War Invalids Day, 27 July 1947 - 27 July 1992, on behalf of the party and state, I sincerely recall the great, gallant sacrifices made by the fallen soldiers for the fatherland. I would like also to cordially convey my kind regards and best wishes to sick and wounded soldiers, families of fallen combatants, and those who have had meritorious services to the revolution.

Commemorating the War Invalids Day this year, we, once again, profoundly realize esteemed President Ho Chi Minh's teaching, saying: The sacrificed blood of the fallen soldiers is so red that it is brightening the color of the revolutionary flag. The sacrifices of these fallen soldiers have led our country to regaining independence and freedom. The Vietnamese people will forever remember these soldiers and will learn from their bold spirit to overcome all difficulties and hardships so as to fulfill all revolutionary tasks.

During the past years, echelons of party committees, the administration, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, mass organizations and societies, and people throughout the country have made great efforts to implement the party's and state's policies toward sick and wounded soldiers, families of the fallen combatants, and those who have had meritorious services to the revolution. Localities throughout the country have established and strengthened the revolutionary movement of great political significance to help care for sick and wounded soldiers and families of fallen combatants. Friendship houses for war invalids have been built in almost all localities, savings accounts presented to families with acute difficulties, sick and wounded soldiers carefully treated, children and parents of fallen combatants closely looked after, funds for families of fallen soldiers established, and military cemeteries and monuments renovated.

On this occasion, I warmly welcome and commend echelons, sectors, localities, and mass organizations and societies for their concrete and meaningful deeds to fulfill this important task of our society.

For their part—implementing Uncle Ho's teaching: Invalids but not useless—during the past period, the sick and wounded soldiers and families of the fallen combatants and those who have had meritorious services to the revolution, have made great efforts in productive labor, participated in social activities, and helped maintain political security and social order and safety, thus contributing to implementing our nation's renovation undertaking. Many sick and wounded soldiers have become exemplary citizens; many families of fallen combatants and those who have had meritorious services to the revolution have become exemplary revolutionary families. I highly commend these exemplary people.

On this occasion, I urge all echelons of party committees, the administration, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, mass organizations and societies to strive to satisfactorily carry out the party's and state's policies toward the war invalids, mobilize the masses to participate in the all-people movement to care for sick and wounded soldiers and families of fallen combatants, thereby improving the material and spiritual life of these people and helping them to do useful work for our society.

My cordial salutations to you all

[Signed] Vo Chi Cong.

Article Views Results of Elections

BK0108021592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Aug 92 p 4

["Asia Pacific Focus" by Jacques Bekaert]

[Text] Hanoi—A member of the former royal family received the largest number of votes in Hanoi and the chairwoman of the Eighth National Assembly Judiciary Committee lost in Ho Chin Minh City. These are only two of the many unexpected results of the Ninth National Assembly election held in Vietnam on July 19.

The election had been described by the Vietnamese leadership as the most democratic since Vietnam's independence in 1945. In many ways it was, but the election campaign also spelled the need for more work to develop the Vietnamese way to democracy.

Democracy, of course, cannot be imposed from the top. It always comes as a demand from the rank and file, from the people. It is not something one can improvise. It is a great learning process. Perfect democracy is a utopia, a rich utopia for which men and women all over the world have fought and died.

There were more candidates than the number of seats available in the Vietnamese National Assembly. At least people had some choice. In Hanoi, for instance, 32 candidates competed for 20 seats at stake. That there was a certain degree of free choice is clear.

Mr Ton That Bach, a professor at the Hanoi College of Medicine, received 01.96 percent of the votes cast in Thanh Tri District. "This was a very spontaneous vote, as Professor Bach is a very good man, totally dedicated to the well being of the population," said a party source. "He is a man of great moral integrity."

Meanwhile Mr Do Muoi, the secretary-general of the Communist Party of Vietnam, received 80.29 percent of the vote in the district of Ba Dinh, If the elections were held a few years ago, Mr Do Muoi would have either received 99 percent, or the true results would have been kept secret.

"The vote for Professor Bach is a great less," another official source told us. "It shows that people respect those who are honourable. It is a lesson for the party's leadership."

While Mr Do Muoi is considered a very honest man who sincerely supports renovation and democratisation, his prominent position in the party may not be of any great help when it comes to popular suppoort.

In the South, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, both well known supporters of reform, received more votes than Mr Do Muoi.

What is interesting with the vote in the capital, is that Hanoi is traditionally more politicised than Ho Chi Minh City. Hanoi is an intellectual city. It has been in the vanguard of many political struggles. Is Hanoi leading the way once more?

It is hard to know what to do with the official figures of voter's participation. The vote was not compulsory, but in many cases people were more than "encouraged" to vote. Still, is it true that 99.23 percent of the people voted in Hanoi and even more in Ho Chi Minh City? Figures for all districts in Hanoi, for instance, have not been released.

At least in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, the two largest constituencies in the country, candidates who come from state enterprises fared poorly. It does not mean that they were all poor candidates, but public suspicion of state enterprises is high and people tend to believe as one party source said, that "if you run a state enterprise, you will make a poor legislator."

On the other hand, the electorate put great emphasis on candidates with degrees and diplomas.

The communists party decided to let independent candidates run in the election. But the selection process was so complex that only two managed to pass the test. "Yes, there was a certain degree of harassment against the independent candidates," a long-time senior party member told us.

One Japanese journalist learned an interesting lesson when he followed the two independent candidates on their campaign trial. In the province of Quang Ngai, the local authorities told him to get lost. (Of course, they were a bit more polite. They were a bit more polite. They argued that it was a bad idea to come because there were no candidates campaigning that day).

In the second province of Ha Tinh, the journalist was able to see the candidates. But the atmosphere was spoiled by the presence of plainclothes security men who kept a watchful eye on the candidates.

Rumours were also spread about the personal life of potential independent candidates, most of whom are well-respected people.

Tiny pamphlets denouncing the regime even appeared at Dong Xuan market in the old city of Hanoi. They were quickly attributed to a gentleman with a long history of mental instability. Does it sound familiar?

Still, it would be unfair to dismiss the election, which was more democratic than ever before. By and large, the new National Assembly should be better than the previous one.

The task of the Communist Party of Vietnam is far from easy. It must face the consequences of decades of poor management, of tremendous economic mistakes. It must prepare the country for a more authentic form of democracy while reforming itself at a time when money is fast becoming the most important ideology. And people are getting impatient. Unemployment is high. Law and order is an issue affecting the entire country, and economic reforms are creating social inequality.

Candidates in large cities had to campaign and face the voters. Some of the party leaders, especially members of the poliburo, were often surprised by the resentment and anger of the population.

There are still honourable men and women in the party, but honesty alone is no guarantee for success. Ms Ngo Ba Thanh, the chairwoman of the Judiciary Committee, is not only an honest party member, but also one of the best and most respected advocates of the socialist regime in Vietnam. Yet she lost in the election.

First the election committee decided to put her in a tough constituency where she had to compete with three other candidates, including Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, for three parliamentary seats. Ms Thanh was tough on corruption and wanted to get even tougher. "Her defeat," said and old party member, "is a victory for the mafia." Did the Communist Party give her the kind of assistance one would think she deserved?

National Assembly To Meet on 19 Sep

BK0108112092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 31 Jul 92

["Communique of the Council of State on its 29-31 July session"]

[Text] The Council of State met from 29-31 July 1992 under the chairmanship of Chairman Vo Chi Cong.

1. The Council of State heard a representative of the Council of Ministers give a briefing on the draft law on organization of the government and report by the National Assembly's Judicial Committee on this draft law.

The draft law regarding the organization of the government is based on new stipulations of the 1992 Constitution and on those experiences obtained by the Council of Ministers over the past decades in building a strong and effective government capable of ensuring the uniform law-abiding administration of the country from the central down to the grass-roots levels, thus meeting requirements arising from the renovation undertaking.

The Council of State gave its opinions and assigned the National Assembly's Judicial Committee and the Council of Ministers with the tasks of continuing to perfect this draft law and further soliciting views from the standing members of the people's councils and people's committees of various provinces and cities under central authority prior to presenting this draft law to the Ninth National Assembly for approval at its first session.

2. Pursuant to the resolution of the Eighth National Assembly's 10th session on the need to revise those clauses that are still unreasonable in the law on house and land tax; and after hearing a report of the Council of Ministers and the views of the National Assembly's Economic, Planning, and Budget Committee, the Council of State gave its suggestions on revising and supplementing a number of clauses in the law on house and land tax. These suggestions involve the temporary suspension of collecting back taxes for houses, on the tax rate, and on tax reduction or tax exemption for those plots of land used for housing or for construction projects.

The Council of State assigned the Council of Ministers' Law Drafting Commission and the National Assembly's Economic, Planning, and Budget Committee with the task of perfecting this draft law prior to submitting it to the Council of State for promulgation, effective 1 October 1992.

The Council of State urged the Council of Ministers to promptly issue a memorandum providing guidance for the enforcement of the law on house and land tax and to widely spread propaganda on the purposes, significance, and essence of the law so the people can understand and comply with it.

3. The Council of State heard representatives of the Council of Ministers, of the Supreme People's Court, and of the Supreme People's Organ of Control brief on those policies and measures designed to enforce the 1992 Constitution in accordance with a resolution of the National Assembly.

A little more than three months after the promulgation of the Constitution, the Council of Ministers, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Organ of Control, and other public organs concerned have adopted a number of practical policies and measures aimed at enforcing the Constitution. In particular, they did a good job in organizing the election of deputies to the Ninth National Assembly.

As a very important task of paramount significance, the enforcement of the Constitution should be carried out urgently to meet present and long-term requirements. The Council of Ministers and various echelons, sectors, and mass organizations should work out plans to continue to step up propapanda to widely disseminate among cadres and people the fundamental contents and the renovative spirit of the 1992 Constitution as well as of those newly promulgated laws; to perfect and strengthen law-enforcing organs; to reexamine the entire judicial system if we are to promptly plan the revision of and amendment to those documents no longer suitable to the Constitution; and to concentrate on compiling the drafts of the revised law on land use, of the law on industrial business bankrupcy, of the labor law, of the civil law, and the law on civil court procedures.

4. The Council of State provided ideas on the draft agenda of the first session of the Ninth National Assembly, to be held on 19 September 1992.

5. The Council of State heard the Council of Ministers' report on the results of its handling of the house price revaluing problem in Ho Chi Minh City. During the period 18 March-22 June 1992, the city people's committee paid the differentials of house revaluation money for 1,931 houses—93 percent of the total 2,140 houses under price revaluation.

The Council of State recalled those achievements already attained, pointing out that the Council of Ministers is now directing the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee to conduct self criticism to clearly discover those irregularities, violations, and responsibilities of each public organ and each individual in the recent house revaluation controversy. The Council of Ministers will provide the Council of State with an official report on the results of its handling of those negative cases involving the house revaluation in question.

6. At the recommendation of the Council of Ministers, the Council of State decided to confer a Gold Star Order on Senior General Vo Nguyen Giap, former member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Political Bureau, former minister of national defense, and former vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, for his great contributions to the revolutionary cause of the party and the nation.

7. At the recommendation of the Council of Ministers, the Council of State decided to promote two lieutenant generals to the rank of senior lieutenant general, namely Comrade Le Kha Phieu, head of the Vietnamese People's Army [VPA] General Political Department; and Comrade Nguyen Trong Xuyen, deputy minister of national defense and head of the VPA's Logistics General Staff.

8. At the recommendation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee, the Council of State decided to nominate a number of public jurors to the Supreme People's Court for the 1992-95 term of office.

Conditions for Sending Students Abroad Detailed

BK3107162992 Hanoi VNA in English 1617 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 31—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet has issued a decision setting conditions on the sending of students abroad in order to ensure better results.

The decision specifies that the sending of students abroad may come under agreements between the Vietnamese and a foreign government or an international organization, between a branch, locality, social, cultural or economic organization, a research or training centre in Vietnam and its equivalent in another country. The student may also receive the sponsorship of a foreign scientist or social activist or a relative living in a foreign country. But the government shall fund only the studies of university students and post graduates spearhead branches where highly qualified personnel are required.

The Ministry of Education and Training is charged with the unified management of the scholarships covered by agreements between the Vietnamese Government and foreign governments or international organizations and shall consult with other concerned agencies and services in the selection of students going abroad under other programmes.

Australia

Senior Politician on UN Sanctions on Burma

BK3107142392 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 31 jul 92

[From "International Report" program]

[Text] Pressure is mounting for economic sanctions against Burma. A senior Australian politician, Chris Schacht, has urged his government to press the United Nations to impose sanctions unless Burma's military regime shows a genuine commitment to improve human rights within weeks. Senator Schacht who has spent the last two days in Rangoon telling the country's State Law and Order Restoration Council, or SLORC, which seized power in 1988, that the world will no longer accept its human rights abuses. Senator Schacht, who chairs Australia's Joint Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, also told SLORC officers that the popularity of Burma's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi would continue to grow while she remained under house arrest. Trevor Watson in Bangkok asked Senator Schacht if he has made or if he had any attempt to see the Nobel prize winner.

[Begin recording] [Schacht] I asked to see her, but I was not surprised when they didn't respond. I didn't expect them to—they have refused everybody else—but, I did ask to see her, as (?practically) any other foreign visitor who goes in asks, and they said no, only immediate members of the family can meet her and that's that.

[Watson] What was their reaction to your expression of the concern over their human rights record?

[Schacht] These are the internal matters for the Myanmar [Burma] Government and for the Myanmar people and the rest of the world doesn't really understand the abnormal situation that exists in Myanmar and that was about it. I went to considerable lengths to explain in discussion that the rest of the world does have a legitimate interest in human rights around the world and all countries have the right to comment on others on human rights, and that the rest of the world including their own ASEAN neighbors are increasingly concerned about some aspects of the policy of the Myanmar Government.

[Watson] You said also before you left that you are going to see if their recent moves toward reform through some sort of constitutional convention and their recent release of political prisoners was genuine or simply window dressing for external consumption. What did you find?

[Schacht] I think there have been some changes that are reasonable and should be welcomed. Only yesterday they announced for the first time in a number of years the universities will be reopened. They are releasing prisoners and have reached over 200 detainees and political prisoners. They said they will release more, but we could not get any more details. And they say very strongly that they put the national convention to discuss the new constitution towards the end of this year is very serious, very detailed, and a major step forward. [sentence as heard] [Words indistinct] I think there have been some encouraging small footsteps but the major issue is still to be resolved and, as I stressed to them again, the world will only start taking some of these things seriously when political leaders like Aung San Suu Kyi are released and able to participate in that political development.

[Watson] James Baker, last weekend at the ASEAN foreign ministers dialogue, again pressed ASEAN for sanctions against Burma. Having been there now, what are your views on sanctions?

[Schacht] My views on sanctions are pretty similar to what they were a month ago. But if these changes that they are talking about don't progress in a major way over the next month or so, well then, I think we do have the issue of sanctions (?proposed) and I would be interested in arguing that Australia take a lead in the U.N. imposing of sanctions on Myanmar. There is no doubt that Aung San Suu Kyi must come back into the political process in the very near future. If she doesn't, well then, I think the question of sanctions has certainly got to be on the table.

[Watson] What about the Austrade office there?

[Schacht] The Austrade office is a very small office. My view about it would be if no further developments take place in the constitutional arrangements and so on, in the end we have got to look at ways of closing the Austrade office down and ensure those two staff members to be successfully deployed on political work on behalf of Australia. [end recording]

New Caledonia

Vanuatu, French Officials Hold Meeting 31 Jul

BK3107134892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1136 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Lifou, Loyalty Islands, July 31 (AFP)—Vanuatu Prime Minister Maxime Carlot held an impromptu meeting here Friday [31 July] with French Minister for Overseas Departments and Territories Louis Le Pensec.

Le Pensec described his encounter with Carlot in this eastern province of the French territory of New Caledonia as a "pleasant surprise," adding he was pleased to see the Loyalty Islands taking the lead in opening talks with its Pacific neighbours in accordance with the Matignon Accords.

The Loyalty Islands recently began talks with Vanuatu and Carlot arrived here earlier Friday at the invitation of the provincial government.

Under the accords signed in 1988, New Caledonian provinces have been granted some autonomy from Paris and have been encouraged to develop ties with other South Pacific nations so as to boost the territory's role in the region.

The accords also call for a referendum in 1998 to determine whether the territory will become independent.

Relationships between France and Vanuatu, strained since the archipelago gained independence in 1980, were normalised in December after Carlot came to power.

A French Government official here said Thursday Paris was on the verge of appointing an ambassador to Vanuatu.

New Zealand

Premier on Concern Over Nuclear Tests Resumption

BK0308075892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0728 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Wellington, Aug 3 (AFP)—Any resumption of French nuclear tests at Mururoa Atoll will make South Pacific nations angry, Prime Minister Jim Bolger told a news conference Monday [3 August].

"They will see it as the arrogance of a distant power, that is how it will be interpreted."

France suspended its 1992 nuclear testing programme saying it would reconsider the 1993 programme after it had seen the response of other nuclear powers.

Over the weekend Jean Lichere, head of the military applications section of France's Atomic Energy Commission, suggested in an interview the tests might resume.

Bolger said Foreign Minister Don McKinnon had written to French Ambassador Gabriel de Bellescize over the issue.

Bolger said McKinnon had expressed "our concern if the French Government was to take the advice of its military, which appears to be where it is coming from, that they should recommence testing in the Pacific."

He said New Zealand and the South Pacific Forum could see "absolutely no justification" for testing to resume.

"In fact, at a time in the world history when the major powers are seeking, and have successfully sought, to reduce the number of nuclear weapons, there seems to be absolutely no justification to go back to nuclear testing."

He said he had received no direct indication from Paris that testing would resume, but said "it seems to be a rumour that's gaining some momentum."

"We want to make certain there was no doubt whatsoever as to the view of the New Zealand government which certainly also reflects the view of the Pacific island nations."

In a statement McKinnon said he had received no confirmation that the reports on a possible resumption represented official policy.

'No Justification' of Testing Seen

BK0308085492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Excerpt] New Zealand has protested to France against any resumption of nuclear testing in the South Pacific. Prime Minister Jim Bolger said there was no justification to go back to nuclear testing because the major nuclear powers were reducing their arsenals. [passage omitted]

Papua New Guinea

Foreign Minister Cited on Solomon Islands Visit

BK0208085492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Papua New Guinea [PNG]'s Foreign Minister John (Karbuton) says he has a better understanding of the Bougainville crisis because of a visit to Solomon Islands. He says this will help him develop the policy on the crisis and its effects on neighboring Solomon Islands.

Mr. (Karbuton) made the statement after two days of discussions with Solomon Islands counterpart Mr. Duddley Tausinga and the country's Minister of Police and Justice Mr. Albet Laore in Honiara. The discussions followed talks between PNG's Prime Minister Mr. Paias Wingti and Solomon Islands' Solomon Mamaloni in Port Vila last weekend.

Both leaders declared that their governments were now committed to fully restoring relations between the two countries.

Bougainville Reportedly Normal; Army in Control

BK0208090892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] The Papua New Guinea [PNG] Government has called on the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] to release all villagers it is holding. Speaking in Honiara, the PNG defence secretary, Mr. Peter (Pipul) said he had asked the deputy chairman of the interim government in Bougainville, Mr. John (Zalei), to relay the request to the BRA. He said about 1,000 villagers from (Rola Vanu) I and (Rola Vanu) II were being held against their will in the Arawa sports ground and they should be released as a gesture of goodwill.

The PNG defence secretary also called on the people from Buin, (Sitiwai), (Nogovish), Torokina, and Tonu villages who have moved into Solomon Islands to return home. He said everything on south Bougainville was back to normal and there was nothing to fear. Mr. (Pipul) said normal services have returned to the villages in the region and claimed that PNG defense forces had taken control of 90 percent of the troubled island.

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